

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF AN EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-V-92-05 Date 2-26-92

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by Region V staff on this date.

FACILITY: WASHINGTON PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM
WNP-2
DOCKET NO. 50-397
RICHLAND, WASHINGTON

Emergency Classification
X Notification of Unusual Event
Alert
Site Area Emergency
General Emergency
Not Applicable

SUBJECT: SHUTDOWN GREATER THAN 72 HOURS

At 1:15 p.m. on February 25, 1992, the licensee declared an Unusual Event upon entering Technical Specification 3.0.3 when both post-LOCA hydrogen recombiners were declared inoperable, affecting the operability of the containment atmosphere control (CAC) system.

The drains for both trains of the CAC system are attached to residual heat removal (RHR) suppression pool cooling return lines. It was discovered that, with the RHR system in the suppression pool cooling mode, the back pressure in the RHR suppression pool cooling return lines may not allow the CAC system to drain. The emergency operating procedures require both the RHR suppression pool cooling mode and the hydrogen recombiners to be in operation simultaneously following a LOCA.

This interaction was discovered during an evaluation of CAC system design which is being performed in response to recent enforcement action regarding the system. Coincidentally, CAC train B unexpectedly shutdown during a performance test earlier in the day, apparently due to system flooding. The RHR system was not in the suppression pool cooling mode at the time and the licensee is investigating the cause of the flooding. The test also was performed in response to recent enforcement action regarding the CAC system.

The licensee terminated the Unusual Event at 7:30 p.m. when the plant reached Mode 3, where the CAC system is not required to be operable. The licensee plans to keep WNP-2 shut down until the issue is resolved. Preliminarily, the licensee anticipates a one to three week outage.

The licensee issued a press release. There has been media interest. Region V received initial notification of this occurrence by telephone call from the Plant Manager at 1:15 p.m. on February 25, 1992. The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee, and is current as of 10:30 a.m. February 26, 1992.

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The Chairman
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