

December 19, 1995

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-95-054

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

Facility

Duquesne Light Co.
Beaver Valley 1
Shippingport, Pennsylvania
Dockets: 50-334

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: BEAVER VALLEY UNIT 1 FORCED SHUTDOWN

On December 18, 1995, at approximately 2PM the Beaver Valley Power Station management decided that Unit 1 would be shutdown to mode 5 in order to proceed with the replacement of selected rubber expansion joints in the Unit 1 River Water System, which provides cooling for reactor plant components, including those required for safe shutdown in the event of an accident.

On December 15, 1995, the licensee was conducting testing of a motor operated valve on the train A side of the Unit 1 River Water System when a 24" rubber expansion joint ruptured. At the time of the rupture, the train B side of this system was providing all required cooling loads with the plant operating at 100% power. The plant entered a 72 hour Technical Specification Limiting Condition for Operation for the train A side River Water System, replaced the rubber expansion joint prior to midnight on December 16, 1995 and continued plant operation at 100% power. The licensee concurrently commenced an evaluation of the integrity of other rubber expansion joints in the River Water System and of a basis for continued Unit 1 operation considering the train A side December 15th joint failure due to internal erosion. This evaluation process led station management to conclude that Unit 1 should be shutdown to support the replacement of selected rubber expansion joints. As of 9:45 AM, December 19, 1995, licensee management stated that the rubber expansion joints needing to be replaced, while Unit 1 is shutdown, are confined to the River Water System. Licensee management has indicated that the plant will be in mode 5, cold shutdown, today and will remain shutdown for about five days.

The licensee states that the above type of expansion joint failure is not a concern for Unit 2 safety systems since they use a metal type of joint.

The contents of this PN have been communicated to the Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia state governments.

The resident inspector is currently on site following up on licensee activities.

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PNO-I-95-054 PDR

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