PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-95-055

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
Gpu Nuclear Corp.
Oyster Creek 1
Forked River,New Jersey
Dockets: 50-219

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

Subject: AUTOMATIC REACTOR SCRAM AND COLD SHUTDOWN

On December 17, 1995, the reactor automatically scrammed after a plant transient occurred, stemming from the main turbine generator stator cooling system. A high temperature condition in the stator cooling system caused an automatic turbine runback. The runback is designed to reduce generator load to about 25% in less than two minutes, unless the initiating condition is restored to normal. Bypass valves opened as expected during the turbine runback, but the steam load transfer from the runback exceeded the 40% capacity of the bypass system and caused reactor pressure to increase to the reactor scram setpoint (1045 psig). Operators had manually initiated a reduction in reactor power by reducing recirculation system flow, however, their efforts did not prevent reaching the high pressure scram setpoint. Operator response was as expected. The plant systems response to the scram was normal. The licensee formed a post-transient review group to independently critique the scram.

Just prior to the scram, operators were restoring the No.1 turbine building closed cooling water (TBCCW) pump to service (No.2 and 3 were operating). It was originally postulated that the TBCCW system was air-bound and caused the stator cooling system transient, although the system had been properly filled and vented. However, it appears that the stator cooling temperature experienced several "shifts" in its control band toward the runback setpoint (89 C) over the two days preceding the scram. The cause of these shifts appears to be the result of a stator cooling system temperature control valve feedback arm problem. Additionally, deficiencies with control room annunciation of the stator cooling high temperature condition may have delayed initial operator response to the condition.

Failure of the stator cooling system temperature control valve feedback arm has been determined by the licensee to be the cause of the reactor scram.

The plant reached Cold Shutdown at 2:38 p.m. on December 18. The licensee is currently performing minor maintenance that could not be done while the plant was operating and the plant is expected to restart on December 22, 1995.

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The resident inspectors performed plant trip followup.

The State of New Jersey has been informed of the contents of this PN.

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