

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-1-92-22

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 the Region I staff on this date.

Facility:	Licensee Emergency Classification:
GPU Nuclear Corporation	<input type="checkbox"/> Notification of Unusual Event
Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alert
Forked River, New Jersey 08731	<input type="checkbox"/> Site Area Emergency
Docket No. 50-219	<input type="checkbox"/> General Emergency
	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable

Subject: FOREST FIRES CAUSE INTERRUPTION OF OFFSITE POWER

On May 3, 1992, at 2:34 p.m., the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station declared an ALERT due to off-site fires threatening the plant switchyard. Previously an UNUSUAL EVENT was declared when grass fires west of the site caused a loss of off-site power and reactor scram at 2:02 p.m.. The emergency diesel generators restored emergency power; off-site power was restored to the non-safety related buses, but because off-site power was considered unreliable due to the forest fires, the emergency diesel generators provided power to the safety buses until early May 4. The licensee cooled down the plant using the isolation condensers and placed the plant on shutdown cooling at approximately 9:00 p.m.

The licensee activated its Technical Support Center and Emergency Operations Facility, and Region I staffed the Incident Response Center in an enhanced monitoring mode to monitor the event. The three resident inspectors responded to the site; two additional inspectors arrived about 2:00 a.m., May 4. The licensee de-escalated to an Unusual Event (UE) at 5:05 a.m., May 4, when the off-site fires no longer threatened the off-site power lines. At 6:35 a.m., they terminated the UE after restoring normal electrical lineup.

There has been substantial media interest, both locally and nationally, in the forest fires. The State of New Jersey has been notified.

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Region I Form 83
(Rev. April 1992)

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