

January 11, 1996

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-96-002

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 II staff in Atlanta, Georgia on this date.

Facility

Florida Power Corporation
Crystal River 3
Crystal River, Florida
Dockets: 50-302

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: FORCED SHUTDOWN IN EXCESS OF 72 HOURS

On January 9, 1996, feedwater system chlorides, sodium, and conductivity were indicative of a condenser tube leak, allowing seawater intrusion into the secondary plant. By procedure the operators began a power reduction. The "A" waterbox had been previously removed from service to permit scheduled maintenance so only the B waterbox was in service.

At 4:51 p.m., with the reactor at approximately 18 percent of rated power, based on reports of rapidly increasing chemistry readings, the decision was made to trip the main turbine. The decision was subsequently made to go to mode 5, Cold Shutdown.

Inspection revealed a large condenser tube leak in the center of the tube bundle, approximately 10 feet from the tube sheet. A guillotine break was found on one tube. No obvious cause for the damaged tube was found. The licensee does not plan to remove the tube at this time, but will wait until the refueling outage scheduled to start on February 29, 1996. The licensee plans to eddy current test approximately 200 surrounding tubes to check for possible damage.

Based on the projected time to clean the secondary systems, anticipated restart is January 17, 1996.

Followup by the Resident and Regional staff is planned.

The state of Florida has been informed. The licensee has issued a press release.

This information is current as of 8:00 a.m., on January 11, 1996.

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