

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE-- PN592029 Date: 8/15/92

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
Washington Nuclear Project 2 (WNP-2)
Richland, Washington
Docket No. 50-397

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

SUBJECT: UNUSUAL EVENT AND MANUAL SCRAM DUE TO POWER OSCILLATIONS

At 0304 PDT on 8-15-92, a manual scram was initiated due to apparent power oscillations of approximately 20% peak to peak. An UNUSUAL EVENT was declared at 0320 PDT.

AT 0304 PDT, with the reactor at 34% power and 32% core flow, while preparing to upshift recirculation pumps to fast speed, operators began to receive intermittent down-scale alarms on the Local Power Range Monitors (LPRMs), and noted that reactor power oscillated with a diverging amplitude until approximately 50 seconds into the event, when it reached a maximum amplitude of 20 percent peak to peak (i.e., oscillations were between 19 to 39 percent reactor power) about every two seconds. The oscillations continued at this amplitude and frequency for approximately 50 more seconds when operators manually scrambled the reactor per licensee procedures. The emergency operating procedures (EOPs) were entered and quickly exited based on momentarily going below +13 inches in the reactor vessel. All systems responded as expected following the scram. The licensee declared an UNUSUAL EVENT at 0320 PDT based on general guidance in the licensee's emergency plan. The UNUSUAL EVENT was terminated at 0430 PDT on the basis that the plant was stable and a controlled cooldown to Mode 4 (cold shutdown) was in progress. This event was unexpected because indication was that the reactor was not in the "Region of Instability" as defined by the Technical Specifications.

The licensee is assembling a team of personnel to determine the root causes of the event. Various PWR industry personnel will be included.

The NRC Resident Inspector was dispatched to the site upon immediate notification and is monitoring the licensee actions. The NRC is sending an Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) to the site to investigate the event. A Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) is being issued to formally document the understanding that the licensee does not plan to restart the reactor until they thoroughly understand the event and have discussed their assessment with the NRC.

The licensee has issued a press release.

This information is current as of 1500 PDT.

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PND-V-2-029 PDR

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CONTACT:

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1/5/92 Time: 5:45 PM PDT

Comm. Rogers	EDO	RI
Comm. Curtiss	AEOD	RII
Comm. Remick	SLITP	RIII
Comm. de Planque	NRR	RIV
OCA	NMSS	
OGC	IRM	
OF	RES	

FAX TO:
Date: 8/15/92 Time: 4:00 PM PDT

The Chairman
ACRS
CIG
OCAA
OPA
LICENSEE
INPO
NSAC
RESIDENT INSPECTOR
HQS. OPERATIONS OFFICER
PDR (202) 634-3343

MAIL TO:

DCS (Original)
DOT (Trans. Only,
Applicable State)

Revised: 07/31/92