

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-85-10

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: Long Island Lighting Company
Wading River, New York
Shoreham Nuclear Power Station
DN 50-322

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

Subject: INITIAL CRITICALITY

Rod withdrawal for the approach to initial criticality began at 2:31 p.m. on February 15, 1985. Criticality was achieved four hours later (with a 312 second period) at 6:25 p.m., on Group Three Rod 42-23 notch six, with the plant at 128.5 degrees Fahrenheit primary temperature and the vessel vented. This was two notches beyond predicted, which is considered very accurate and is acceptable. Initial criticality was achieved properly and without incident. The evolution was observed by the senior resident and two region-based NRC inspectors.

The plant was shutdown at 3:00 a.m. on February 16, and a second criticality was achieved at approximately 8:00 p.m. that same day. The plant is currently limited by license to 24.36 kW (10^{-3%}) thermal. The calculated power achieved at criticality was approximately 30 watts; the maximum level achieved was, by surveillance, 355 watts on February 16. The plant was shut down at approximately 6:00 a.m. on February 17, 1985, and is currently undergoing maintenance on recirculation pump seals and instrument isolation valves.

LILCO has not issued a press release. NRC Region I will respond to media inquiries. The state of New York has been informed. This PN is for information only.

CONTACT: P. Eselgroth E. Kelly
 8-516-929-3311 8-488-1132

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