

FOIA/PA REQUEST:

Case No: 97-144
Date Rec'd: 4-17-97
Action Off: Reed
Related Case: _____

The Orlando Sentinel

633 North Orange Avenue
P.O. Box 2833
Orlando, Florida 32802-2388

April 10, 1997

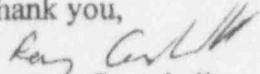
Russell Powell,
U. S. N. R. C.
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am a reporter with the Orlando Sentinel and I am writing a story on Florida Power's nuclear plant at Crystal River and the reasons it was shut down recently.

In order to complete the story I am making a Freedom of Information Act request for all the documents, notes and memos you have concerning mismanagement and/or safety issues at the Crystal River plant during the past two years (1996-97).

Thank you,


Ramsey Campbell

9706250055 970620
PDR FOIA
CAMPBELL97-144 PDR

January 31, 1997

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-97-007

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 (Atlanta, Georgia) on this date.

Facility

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

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: NEWS MEDIA INTEREST IN FOSSIL PLANT TRANSFORMER EXPLOSION NEAR CRYSTAL RIVER 3

At approximately 1:20 a.m. Thursday morning January 30, 1997, a main 230 kV step-up transformer caught fire and exploded at Crystal River Unit 4 (coal plant north of nuclear Unit 3). The explosion lifted the transformer off of its base and toppled it on its side. There were no personnel injuries. The fire lasted approximately 30 minutes and was extinguished by foam application. Crystal River Unit 3 (CR3) supplemented the response by dispatching four extra fire brigade qualified individuals to Unit 4 and supplying four pallets of foam from their warehouse. The dispatched individuals were not filling roles on the required CR3 fire brigade. Offsite help was requested and received by the DeRosa Volunteer Fire Department. The transformer shell split but remained largely intact so there was minimal oil loss to the environment. The transformer oil did not contain PCBs.

The impact on CR3 was limited to a minor 230 kV switchgear perturbation due to CR4 separating from the grid with no loss of offsite power to CR3. This caused reactor building purge to be secured which the operators restored after approximately five minutes. As a precautionary measure, the operators manually aligned the control room habitability complex ventilation to recirculation mode for approximately 4.5 hours due to the smoke plume from the fire extending over CR3. After receiving further information on the nature of the transformer failure, the Operations Shift Supervisor determined the explosion warranted a declaration of a NOUE and notified the State of Florida and the NRC Operations Center at approximately 1:45 p.m. The CR3 NOUE emergency action level criteria is a "severe explosion near or within the 0.83 Site Boundary but not affecting plant operations." CR4 is approximately 0.7 miles away from CR3. The operators originally believed the event was a fire that did not involve a severe explosion. Florida Power Corporation has not issued a press release at this time.

The Senior Resident Inspector has been reviewing the licensee's actions.

The State of Florida has been informed.

This information is current as of 2:15 p.m. January 30, 1997.

Contact: C. JULIAN
(404) 331-5526

Dupe
97061310368 1p
C/3

October 8, 1996

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-96-070A

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 (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: TROPICAL STORM JOSEPHINE UPDATE

As of 5:00 a.m. October 8, 1996, Tropical Storm Josephine had lost most of its tropical characteristics and was located inland about 50 miles southeast of Savannah, GA. The storm should track northeastward with some acceleration up the east coast.

The plant was shutdown and in Mode 5 for unrelated problems prior to the storm. At approximately 11:00 p.m. on October 7, 1996, the National Hurricane Center lifted the hurricane warning for the Crystal River area. At that time the licensee exited the Unusual Event.

Operating decay heat systems were placed on the "B" EDG at midnight when the water level reached 97 feet plant elevation (mean high tide is 92 feet plant elevation). The water level peaked at 97.3 feet. There was no flooding or other damage. At all times the plant was stable.

At 1:40 a.m. on October 8, 1996, after the licensee confirmed that the water level was dropping, the licensee began to decrease site manning and the NRC secured the Incident Response Center manning in Atlanta.

At 5:10 a.m. on October 8, 1996, the EDG was secured and decay heat systems were returned to their normal lineup.

The state of Florida has been informed.

This information is current as of 9:00 a.m., October 8, 1996.

Contact: K. LANDIS
(404) 331-5509

Dupe
~~9610110169~~ 1p.

October 7, 1996

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-96-070

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 (Atlanta, Georgia) on this date.

Facility

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

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: UNUSUAL EVENT DUE TO HURRICANE WARNING

An "unusual event" was declared this morning (October 7, 1996 at 8:49 a.m.) at the Florida Power Corporation Crystal River 3 (CR3) Nuclear Power Plant because of a hurricane warning issued by the State of Florida. CR3 is currently off line and in an unrelated Mode 5 cold shutdown maintenance outage. The reactor coolant system is at 100 degrees F and 150 psi. The licensee is implementing the violent weather procedure included in the CR3 emergency plan. The plant will remain in the "unusual event" status at least until the hurricane warning is lifted. A voluntary evacuation has been implemented in the local area (Citrus County). The peak storm surge is expected to be 6-10 feet at approximately 8:00 p.m. tonight as Tropical Storm Josephine passes to the north of the site.

The Senior Resident Inspector and one Regional Inspector will remain on site through the evening. Two Regional Inspectors are conducting onsite inspections and are available tomorrow morning for relief as necessary. The Region II Incident Response Center will be staffed through the evening to monitor plant conditions.

The State of Florida and local government agencies have been notified.

This information is current as of 4:00 p.m., October 7, 1996.

Contact: K. LANDIS
(404)331-5509

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Dufu

September 19, 1996

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-96-064

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 (Atlanta, Georgia) on this date.

Facility

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

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: APPARENT ACT OF TAMPERING

On September 19, 1996, the licensee reported an apparent act of tampering when it was discovered that a penny was lodged in the lube oil strainer, for the gearbox to the radiator cooling fan, on the "A" Emergency Diesel Generator. This was discovered while performing corrective maintenance on the generator. The licensee declared a Notification of Unusual Event due to the apparent act of tampering. The plant has been shutdown since September 2, 1996 due to unrelated repairs required on the main turbine.

Corrective actions involve replacing the strainer, retesting the "A" Emergency Diesel Generator for operability, and testing the "B" Emergency Diesel Generator for operability. Both emergency diesel generators were placed under security watch as an interim measure. FPC's corporate security is investigating the potential tampering.

The Resident and Region-based Inspectors are following the licensee's corrective actions. One Region II Security inspector will be dispatched to the plant next week for a followup on the licensee's investigation.

The licensee has issued a press release.

The state of Florida and local government agencies were notified.

Contact: E. LEA
(404)331-3641

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Dupe