

Date: November 3, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-00-35

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

North Atlantic Energy Service Corporation
Seabrook
Route 1
Seabrook, New Hampshire 03874

Licensee Emergency Classification

☐ Notification of Unusual Event
☐ Alert
☐ Site Area Emergency
☐ General Emergency
☒ Not Applicable

Docket No.: 050-443

License No.: NPF-86

SUBJECT: SEABROOK STATION "B" EMERGENCY DIESEL GENERATOR DAMAGE DURING
TESTING - SPECIAL INSPECTION TEAM

Seabrook Station is currently in a refueling outage with all fuel removed from the reactor vessel.

Between October 29 and November 1, 2000, the licensee attempted to perform a 24-hour endurance surveillance test on the "B" Emergency Diesel Generator (EDG). The attempts on October 29 and 30, 2000, resulted in operators securing the EDG based on high differential pressure across the lubricating oil filter. The attempt on November 1 encountered "crankcase high pressure" and "EDG high vibration" alarms and required emergency EDG shutdown. In addition, the operators in the EDG room noted a flash from the turbo-charger area and heavy black smoke. Subsequent preliminary assessment by the licensee has revealed damage to at least one of the EDG cylinder liners.

The licensee formed an Event Team on October 31, 2000, to assess the problems with the lubricating oil system, and expanded the scope of that team on November 1, 2000, based on the last test failure.

Region I received initial notification of the third test failure resulting in damage to the EDG by telephone on November 1 from the senior resident inspector. On November 2, Region I, in consultation with NRR, decided to send a Special Inspection Team to the site to monitor and assess the licensee's root cause evaluation and corrective actions, independently evaluate the risk significance of the EDG test failures, and determine possible generic implications. The resident inspector is a member of that team and will monitor licensee actions until the team is dispatched.

The State of New Hampshire has been notified of this event and the NRC's decision to conduct the special inspection.

Region I Public Affairs is issuing a press release to announce the special inspection and is prepared to respond to media inquiries.

The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee, and is current as of November 3, 2000.

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