

Ferdas, Marc

From: Nuclear Communications
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2004 2:20 PM
To: ENTNBU
Subject: FYI | Taking The Time To Fix It Right - Hope Creek RF12 Outage Start Date and Duration Revised
Importance: High



Taking The Time To Fix It Right Hope Creek RF12 Outage Start Date and Duration Revised

This fall, we are expanding the Hope Creek Outage. Plans are in development to rebuild 69 Control Rod Drive Mechanisms during RF12, which will significantly improve our CRDM performance. We are also including a group of online work orders in the outage scope to get our CM backlog in line with the industry. This work will likely add close to 2.5 weeks to the outage duration. Lessons learned from both our spring outage at Salem and the March Hope Creek outage will help us as we build the plan and schedule for RF12.

Due to Hope Creek's lowered capacity factor, we haven't reached the core exposure predicted for this point in the operating cycle. A Team was formed, comprised of personnel from Nuclear Fuels, Reactor Engineering, Business Support, and Outage Management, to evaluate the overall impact this excess energy could present in the next operating cycle. Based on the review, it has been determined that the best option is to push the start date back at least two weeks.

"In March, we did the right thing taking the unit offline to fix the equipment before the summer, but our execution was poor," said Chris Bakken. "When we made the decision to take the unit offline, we only gave ourselves four days to plan the work, which just wasn't enough time. This fall, we are taking the time to fix the equipment that will improve the health of the station, and we have given ourselves enough time to plan the work and the contingencies. I expect much better results this fall."

Hope Creek's 12th refueling outage is currently scheduled for 52 days, running from October 28 through December 19. If we are successful in our execution, this outage will only impact our Thanksgiving Holiday.

"Pushing the start date to October 28 does two things for us," said Bakken. "From a nuclear safety standpoint, it gives us the safety margin we need to successfully load the core for the next operating cycle. From a personal standpoint, it gives us the opportunity to get this outage behind us without impacting the vacations that are often planned during the last week of the year."

"Unfortunately, this outage will impact our Thanksgiving weekend. To give everyone time with your families prior to the outage, we are giving all PSEG Nuclear employees a day off on Friday, October 8. This is the Friday before the Columbus Day weekend - Monday October 11 is a floating holiday for both Union and Mast associates. (All shift workers will be given one extra vacation day to take as their schedule permits.) Whether you take the three or four day weekend, I encourage you all to spend some quality time at home with your family before this extended outage begins."

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