

March 11, 2013

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE - PNO-II-13-001A

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. Some of the information may not yet be fully verified or evaluated by the Region II staff.

Facility

Turkey Point Nuclear Station, Unit 3
Florida Power and Light Co.
Florida City, FL
Docket: 50-250

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: UPDATE – UNIT STARTUP FOLLOWING UNPLANNED SHUTDOWN GREATER THAN 72 HOURS DUE TO HIGH REACTOR COOLANT PUMP SEAL LEAK OFF RATE

This preliminary notification supplements the information in PNO-II-13-001. After replacing the seal package on 3A reactor coolant pump (RCP), the licensee commenced the startup of Turkey Point Unit 3 on March 10, 2013. Mode 2 was entered at 9:11 p.m. The unit was shut down for twenty-one days to complete the repairs on the 3A RCP.

On February 18, 2013, just before 1:00 a.m., Unit 3 commenced a shutdown due to a high seal leak off flow rate of approximately 5.5 gallons per minute (gpm) on the 3A reactor coolant pump (RCP). At 1:29 a.m., during a rapid down power, the seal leak off increased to approximately 6.0 gpm, which exceeded the off normal operating procedure limit requiring a reactor trip. The reactor was manually tripped. The auxiliary feedwater system actuated as designed based on steam generator levels shrinking following the trip. No complications were reported. The direct cause of the elevated seal leak off flow rate was determined to be due to leakage past an o-ring in the seal assembly. The seal package was replaced using revised installation procedures.

The NRC resident inspectors continue to monitor the licensee's actions. The State of Florida has been notified via telephone. This preliminary notification is issued for information only. The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee, and is current as of 10:16 a.m. on March 11, 2013.

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