

October 24, 1996

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-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 III staff (Lisle, Illinois) on this date.

Facility	Licensee Emergency Classification
Consumers Power Co.	Notification of Unusual Event
Big Rock Point 1	Alert
Charlevoix, Michigan	Site Area Emergency
Dockets: 50-155	General Emergency
	X Not Applicable

Subject: SHUTDOWN FOR EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALIFICATION DATA

On October 23, 1996, the Big Rock Point Nuclear Station was shut down because of recently identified information indicating that it is outside its design basis for environmental qualification temperature profiles during a postulated "large break" loss of cooling accident (LOCA).

Big Rock Point's program for establishing that safety-related electrical equipment would operate under the environmental conditions experienced during a large break LOCA (main steam line break) was based on a design maximum temperature of 260 degrees F. inside containment. This design basis temperature was selected based upon computer modeling of the effects of a spectrum of LOCAs. Plant staff recently ran a new computer simulation of a large break LOCA which indicated that the maximum temperature inside containment would reach approximately 325 degrees F. On October 22, 1996, an error in the original computer model was identified by plant staff who were trying to resolve the difference in temperature profile results.

The licensee has performed a preliminary assessment of the effect of the higher than anticipated temperature profile on safety-related electrical equipment located inside containment. Based upon this assessment, the licensee considers all required equipment to be operable, but decided to shut the plant down as a prudent compensatory action while additional evaluations are being performed.

The shutdown is expected to last about a week. The resident inspectors will monitor the licensee's activities during the shutdown.

The State of Michigan will be notified. The information in this Preliminary Notification have been discussed with the licensee.

The resident inspectors were informed of the licensee's findings and plans to shut down at 10:15 a.m. CDT on October 23, 1996. This information is current as of 8 a.m. on October 24, 1996.

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