

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-078

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 (King of Prussia, Pennsylvania) on this date.

Facility:

GPU Nuclear Corporation  
Oyster Creek Nuclear Gen. Station  
Forked River, New Jersey  
Docket No. 50-219

Licensee Emergency Classification:

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

SUBJECT: PLANT SHUTDOWN FOR GREATER THAN 3 DAYS DUE TO VITAL POWER CABLE FAILURE

On Friday, October 25, 1996, at 11:59 a.m. the licensee manually scrambled the reactor due to a turbine runback that resulted from a problem in the stator cooling system. While making preparations for a plant restart on Sunday, October 27, 1996, at 11:59 p.m., the licensee received the "Main Breaker 1D 86 Lockout Trip" alarm and lost the "D" 4160Vac bus and all 480 Vac motor control centers supplied by the "D" bus. Loss of the bus resulted in a reactor scram, no control rod motion was experienced because the plant was in cold shutdown with all rods fully inserted, and a containment isolation, which resulted in a loss of the reactor vent path for a 13 minute period. All busses (except "D" vital 4160 bus) were subsequently cross-tied to restore power to plant loads. Shutdown cooling was not lost because the "A" pump was running and it is powered from the 1A2 (opposite side supply) 480 Vac bus. Subsequent troubleshooting by the licensee identified the fault to be in the "C" phase of the emergency diesel generator (EDG) cable between the EDG output breaker and the "D" 4160 bus. This cable was previously replaced in 1977. Repairs to the cable are expected to take several days. With the "D" 4160 Vac bus deenergized, two of four core spray "main" pumps and two, of four, emergency service water pumps are unavailable. One train of standby gas treatment is also considered inoperable because it cannot be run on the No. 2 EDG with the "D" bus unavailable. This equipment lineup meets all applicable Technical Specification requirements for the current plant condition. Plant restart is currently scheduled for Monday, November 4, 1996.

The licensee issued a News Release on October 25, 1996, concerning the reactor manual scram but does not plan to issue a press release concerning the extended shutdown; however, local newspapers have issued articles discussing the problem.

The State of New Jersey has been informed.

The resident will continue to follow this event.

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