

August 26, 1985

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-85-85

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 II staff on this date.

FACILITY: Florida Power & Light Company  
St. Lucie Unit 2  
Docket No. 50-389  
Fort Pierce, Florida

Licensee Emergency Classification:  
X Notification of Unusual Event  
     Alert  
     Site Area Emergency  
     General Emergency  
     Not Applicable

SUBJECT: SMALL REACTOR COOLANT PUMP OIL FIRE

Leaking oil from a reactor coolant pump lower motor reservoir came into contact with the pump casing and caught fire at 3:30 a.m. (EDT) on Saturday, August 24, while St. Lucie Unit 2 was in hot standby preparing for start-up. Primary system temperature was at 523 degrees Fahrenheit.

Florida Power & Light (FPL) declared an unusual event, in accordance with the plant emergency plan. The fire was extinguished without outside assistance, and the unusual event was ended at 3:50 a.m. The fire caused no equipment damage.

After the fire, the primary system was cooled down below oil flash point temperature while FPL investigated the cause of vibration which the reactor coolant pump had been experiencing before the fire. It was determined that the pump motor's lower bearing and oil seal had failed. FPL now has cooled down the plant further and depressurized the primary system. Repairs are expected to take several days. FPL has contacted the pump and motor vendors for technical assistance.

Two employees working in the vicinity of the affected reactor coolant pump were slightly injured in accidents after the fire was out. One slipped and strained a shoulder while climbing a ladder. The other appeared affected by heat exhaustion. Both were treated at a nearby hospital and released.

Both FPL and Region II responded to media inquiries concerning the fire, which FPL announced.

The State of Florida has been informed.

FPL informed the NRC headquarters by telephone of this incident at 4:08 a.m. on August 24. This information is current as of 2 p.m. today.

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DISTRIBUTION:

H. Street 2:29  
Chairman Palladino  
Comm. Roberts  
Comm. Asselstine  
Comm. Bernthal  
Comm. Zech

MNBB 3:11  
EDO  
PA  
MPA  
ELD  
Air Rights 3:19

Phillips 3:14  
NRR

E/W 3:45  
IE  
OIA  
4EOD

Willste 3:16  
NMSS  
RES

MAIL:  
ADM:DMB  
DOT: Trans Only  
Applicable State

INPO 2:21

8508290233 850826  
PDR I&E  
PNO-II-85-085 PDR

DMB  
IE 3:1  
011

SECY  
ACRS  
CA  
PDR

SP

NSAC

Regions:

Licensee: 3:54

(Reactor Licensees)

Applicable Resident Site 3:24

REG's I

III 3:43

IV 3:48

V 3:51