

December 15, 1998

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-98-062

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 I staff in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania on this date.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
Northeast Utilities	Notification of Unusual Event
Millstone 3	Alert
Waterford, Connecticut	Site Area Emergency
Dockets: 50-423	General Emergency
	X Not Applicable

Subject: UNPLANNED SHUTDOWN GREATER THAN 48 HOURS
(EVENT NOS. 35137 AND 35143)

At approximately 8:45 a.m. on December 11, 1998, Millstone Unit 3 tripped from 100 percent reactor power during main steam isolation valve (MSIV) partial stroke testing. A solenoid valve integral to the MSIV failed to reopen when a licensed operator released a test switch. Instead of the MSIV reopening from 10 percent closed, the MSIV fully closed, causing the plant to trip from a low-low steam generator level. Auxiliary feedwater automatically started and brought steam generator level back to normal. Plant systems functioned normally and at 9:10 a.m., operators exited emergency operating procedures. Upon full closure of one MSIV, two of the five main steam safety valves lifted, to relieve the resultant pressure spike, and then reseated. Subsequent review of steam line pressure conditions, safety valve setpoint tolerances, and automatic relief valve controls verified the proper operation of their equipment.

Later that evening after testing the remaining MSIV solenoid valves at normal operating pressure and temperature, the licensee decided to take the plant to cold shutdown (Mode 5) in order to investigate all abnormal solenoid valve test results. Subsequently, the licensee decided to remove and inspect all thirty-two solenoid valves (eight per MSIV). During the shutdown, the licensee will also conduct other corrective maintenance and some troubleshooting activities on equipment requiring Mode 5 conditions for repair. The licensee will not restart the plant until this corrective maintenance is complete. The licensee is not planning to issue a press release.

The State of Connecticut has been notified.

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