

N382. NU Prepares For Restart After Problems

Northeast Utilities (NU) plans to restart its Millstone-2 reactor soon, now that outage activities are back on track. The refueling outage at the 875-MWe pressurized water reactor started October 1, 1994, but got derailed by a couple of personnel errors late the same month. In one incident, a valve misalignment spilled 150 gal. of seawater from the service water system over some electrical circuits. In the other, a worker mistakenly opened a pressurized hydrogen line. In response to these personnel errors, the Millstone station put a hold on the outage for about six weeks. NU stopped all work on the outage, regrouped, and replanned the outage from scratch.

The outage began slowly in early December and was back to full speed by early March. Along with refueling, personnel inspected the unit's steam generators, which are nearly new. Workers also performed a 10-year service inspection and were finishing work on the service water piping. They found corrosion in the service water system, which carries seawater, was a little bit more extensive than they thought. They are inspecting the pipe and replacing some of it.

NU met with the NRC in late February to discuss what might have caused the personnel errors, such as procedure compliance, overall work control, and cultural issues. The NRC plans another public meeting with NU prior to restarting the plant.

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