Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant Goes Offline Due to Nemo Blizzard

Posted by Darren Halas • February 9, 2013 • Printer-friendly

Somewhere around 9:15pm EST the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant located in Plymouth, Massachusetts went offline by shutting down automatically. The power down of the Nuclear Power Plant was due to loss of off-site power from the force of the Nemo Blizzard slamming into the East Coast. It was at this time the backup emergency diesel generators took over to keep the nuclear reactor cooled.
The Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant issued an Unusual Event around 10pm EST which is one of four stages of classification of emergency. The current level of emergency for the Massachusetts Nuclear Power Plant is still at the lowest level of emergency. The operator of the Nuclear Power Plant is Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. which had its operating license renewed on May 29th, 2012.

Ironic enough, the Plymouth Daily News reports that calls were made to shutdown the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station before the Nor’Easter Blizzard hit the state. On February 7th, 2013 at 3:00pm it was published that, "Karen Vale of Cape Cod Bay Watch and Pine DuBois of the Jones River Landing Association say that Local groups have asked the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to order Entergy Corporation, Pilgrim’s operator, to take the reactor offline during the storm to prevent an unacceptable risk to the public and the environment. This storm differs from Hurricane Sandy because it is hitting Plymouth during high tide, not low tide, and will be accompanied by heavy snow and ice."

Unfortunately the worst happened and power outages across MA are reaching 91% - 100% of customers at this moment. A report by NSTAR.com shows the power outage map that is being updated often. The last update was on February 9th, 2013 at 3:00 am EST. Below is a map of the current power outage problems in Massachusetts all throughout the entire Cape Cod Bay area.
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http://www.jaxobserver.com/2013/02/09/pilgrim-nuclear-power-plant-go...

1 Responses »

1. @Nucleartraining
   February 10, 2013 • 12:27 pm

   NRC: Unusual Event at Pilgrim Nuclear plant exited as of 10:55 a.m. today. NRC will continue to
track work to restore all off-site power.

The problem was not the power for the station, the problem was the grid who was not available for supplying the electricity generated.