



IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency

Incident and Emergency Centre

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Status of North America Nuclear Power Plants Affected by Hurricane Sandy

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The Incident and Emergency Centre (IEC) of the IAEA has been in contact with Operations Centre of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (US NRC) and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) and have the following latest information about the nuclear power plants in North America affected by Hurricane Sandy.

In the United States of America (US), the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant declared an Alert at 00:44 UTC 30 Oct 2012 due to high water level in the intake structure being above 6 feet. At 14:30 UTC 30 Oct 2012 water level was reported to be at 6.5 feet. The plant was in a planned refueling outage and some fuel had been off-loaded to the spent fuel pool, which was still open to the refuelling cavity. The plant experienced a temporary loss of offsite power and both on-site emergency diesel generators started as designed.

At 07:52 UTC 31 Oct 2012, the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant terminated the Alert. Intake water level had returned to Levels below the threshold for declaring an emergency condition. Off-site power was restored and the on-site emergency diesel generator returned to standby.

In addition, Salem Unit 1 was manually tripped, and Indian Point Unit 3 and Nine Mile Point Unit 1 automatically tripped due to electrical transients on the grid or internal conditions which were likely related to Hurricane Sandy. All three of these units continue to have off-site power and one unit (Nine Mile Point Unit 1) has reached cold shutdown. Indian Point Unit 3 and Salem Unit 1 remain at normal operating temperature and pressure with restarts pending.

The US NRC is publishing updates regarding the status of its nuclear power plants on their website at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2012>

No unusual conditions have been reported by any of the Canadian nuclear power plants. The CNSC new releases can be found at: <http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng>