

Nuclear Power Plant Relies on Mobile Treatment System for Hurricane Preparedness

Challenge

As Hurricane Katrina approached the Louisiana coast, a nuclear power plant launched its emergency preparedness plan, which included protection against the loss of electric power supply to key plant systems that were required for reactor operation. One of these items is the treatment system that provides high purity water to the steam generators. That system uses reverse osmosis, using high-pressure pumps, which operate on a high voltage electric supply. The equipment would be rendered inoperable in the event of loss of power, ceasing the production of high purity water and therefore making it impossible to continue reactor operation and power production.

Solution

GE Water & Process Technologies supplied a complete Mobile Water temporary treatment system that could operate in the event of a complete loss of power. The system was comprised of a trailer mounted filtration system, which pretreated the river water supply. The filtration system fed a mobile ion exchange demineralizer system, which was used to bring the water to the required purity. The system was able to operate with low voltage power, and in an emergency could be operated without an electric power supply.

Results

The plant was prepared to withstand a complete loss of its high purity water treatment system, able to quickly shift to operation of the mobile treatment system should conditions require. No production interruption would occur for lack of high purity water for the reactors.



Find a contact near you by
visiting gewater.com or
e-mailing custhelp@ge.com.

Global Headquarters
Trevose, PA
+1-215-355-3300

Americas
Watertown, MA
+1-617-926-2500

Europe/Middle East/Africa
Heverlee, Belgium
+32-16-40-20-00

Asia/Pacific
Shanghai, China
+86 (0) 411-8366-6489

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