

January 25, 2005

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-05-001

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 the Region III staff on this date.

Facility

Fermi 2 Nuclear Power Plant
Detroit Edison Co.
Newport MI
Docket: 50-341
License: NPF-43

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event
 Alert
 Site Area Emergency
 General Emergency
 Not Applicable

SUBJECT: MANUAL SCRAM DUE TO UNIDENTIFIED LEAKAGE IN DRYWELL

At 4:19 p.m. EST on January 24, 2005, operators at the Fermi 2 nuclear power plant manually scrammed (shut down) the reactor after water leakage from an unknown source was detected in the reactor containment (drywell). The licensee declared an Unusual Event based on the leakage, and shortly thereafter raised the emergency classification to an Alert at 4:40 p.m. when the leakage into the drywell (containment) sump increased to greater than 50 gallons per minute (approximately 60 gallons per minute was measured).

NRC Region III (Chicago) activated the Incident Response Center and, following consultation with NRC headquarters, entered the monitoring mode. The NRC resident inspectors responded to the plant to follow the licensee's response to the event.

Following analysis of samples taken from the containment atmosphere and the containment sump, plant operators determined that the leakage was not reactor coolant system water. There were no increases in airborne radioactivity in the containment and no release of radioactivity to the environment resulting from the event.

Water samples from the sump showed lower than normal levels of radioactivity and the presence of a corrosion inhibitor like that used in an equipment cooling system. The reactor building closed cooling water system (RBCCW) provides cooling water to several components, including the drywell coolers and other equipment in the containment.

Plant operators subsequently isolated a portion of RBCCW, and the leakage was reduced to less than 1 gallon per minute.

The licensee plans to place the reactor in cold shutdown and enter the drywell to locate the source of the leakage. An NRC resident inspector will accompany plant personnel in the drywell entry and the resident inspectors will continue to monitor the licensee's response to the event and subsequent repair activities.

State and local officials were notified of the event. Region III and Headquarters public affairs staff responded to numerous inquiries from area news media and national news media.

The Alert classification was terminated at 10:28 p.m. EST, and Region III secured from the monitoring mode.

The licensee reported this event to the NRC Operations Center at 4:28 p.m. on January 24, 2005. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management. This information is current as of 10 a.m. EST on January 25, 2005.

CONTACTS:	Robert Lerch	Stephen Campbell
	630/829-9759	734/586-2798