

October 15, 2007

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE - PNO-III-07-010A

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 Unit 2  
Detroit Edison Company  
Newport, Michigan  
Docket: 50-341  
License: NPF-43

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: UPDATE: UNUSUAL EVENT TERMINATED AT FERMI AND SPECIAL INSPECTION TEAM DISPATCHED

DESCRIPTION:

On October 11, 2007, during a refueling outage, personnel at Fermi Unit 2 discovered a small unexpected hole and several indentations on steamline pipes downstream of safety relief valves in the drywell. The small hole went all the way through the pipe; the indentations were of varying depths.

The plant was in a shutdown condition for refueling. Appropriate safety systems have been available. The plant has been and remains in a safe condition.

Under certain conditions, which were not present, these pipes are used to relieve reactor pressure. Even if they had to be used to relieve reactor pressure, there would have been no radiation released to the environment.

The utility is conducting an investigation into the cause of the damage to the pipes. Tampering was considered as one of the potential causes of the holes and indentations. This led the utility to declare an Unusual Event. The utility concluded on October 12 that there was no evidence that tampering had occurred and terminated from the Unusual Event. Based on interviews and reviews of maintenance activities, the utility's preliminary conclusion is that the damage occurred during the removal of pipe insulation.

The NRC immediately began reviewing the licensee's activities around the clock from the Region III Incident Response Center and through NRC resident and regional inspectors on-site. The NRC continued to evaluate the utility's findings and conclusions from the initial identification of the problem on October 11 through the weekend and transitioned to a 4-person Special Inspection Team on October 15, 2007.

The State of Michigan, as well as appropriate local and federal agencies and officials have been informed of this updated information.

The event was reported to the NRC Operations Center at 1:19 p.m. EDT on October 11, 2007, and was terminated at 5:06 p.m. EDT on October 12, 2007.

This information is current as of 9:00 a.m. on Monday, October 15, 2007.

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