

November 30, 2010

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION- REGION III

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-10-016

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. Some of the information may not yet be fully verified or evaluated by the Region III staff.

Facility

Fermi Power Plant, Unit 2
Detroit Edison Company
Newport, MI
Docket: 50-341

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: INJURED PERSON TRANSPORTED OFF-SITE

On November 25, 2010, while Fermi Unit 2 was in a scheduled refueling outage, a worker was injured during reinstallation of reactor shield blocks. Specifically, two of the individual's finger tips were pinched and severed when a 100-ton shield block was being moved next to the reactor cavity wall, which is the proper location for reactor operation. Shield blocks are used to protect the reactor vessel from potential hazards when the reactor is operating. The blocks are removed during refueling operations to allow access to the reactor vessel. At the end of an outage, the blocks are reinstalled for power operations.

The worker and the severed finger tips were transported to a local area hospital. The issue was reported to the NRC, because it involved the transport of the slightly contaminated severed finger tips. Due to the physical condition of the severed finger tips, they could not be reattached and were returned to the Fermi site for proper disposal. The utility will be reporting the issue in accordance with Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) regulations and site procedures.

The NRC reviewed the radiological aspects of the situation. The individual was not contaminated. The severed portions of the fingers tips were contained inside gloves that were being worn by the individual at the time. The gloves became slightly contaminated when they were pinched between the shield block and the reactor vessel wall. NRC inspectors determined that the glove and severed finger tips were placed in the custody of a trained radiological technician during transport to the hospital and were under appropriate radiological controls. Standard medical and radiological practices prevented the spread of contamination, which was confirmed by the licensee's follow-up surveys and monitoring. There was no impact to the health and safety of the public or medical professionals.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only and the NRC will follow-up with on-site inspection of the radiological aspects of this issue.

Region III received initial notification of this occurrence by an Event Notification to the Headquarters Operations Officer from Detroit Edison Company at 8:00 a.m. CST on November 25, 2010. The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee, and is current as of 4:00 p.m. CST on November 29, 2010.

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