

Date: 4/09/01

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-00-009

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 I staff on this date.

**Facility**

FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company  
Beaver Valley 2  
Shippingport, Pennsylvania

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

Docket No.: 050-00412

License No.: NPF-73

Event No.: 37897

**SUBJECT: BEAVER VALLEY UNIT 2 FIRE IN PROTECTED AREA GREATER THAN 15 MINUTES**

At 7:43 p.m. on April 6, 2001, operators declared an Unusual Event due to fire adjacent to the primary auxiliary building, which was not extinguished within 15 minutes. The source of the fire was from a diesel fuel oil sample being analyzed in the secondary chemistry laboratory. The oil sample and exhaust hood ventilation duct caught fire. Automatic fire suppression systems in the room actuated as designed and contained the fire to the exhaust hood ventilation duct. The station fire brigade responded and offsite firefighting assistance was requested due to heavy smoke seen exiting the rooftop ventilation ducts. The station emergency response organization responded to the site but did not activate the emergency response facilities. The station fire brigade applied water from two fire hoses for approximately 15 minutes to extinguish the fire. It was declared out at 8:22 p.m.

After ventilating the area to remove smoke, the station fire brigade and local fire department personnel inspected the chemistry laboratory and adjacent plant areas. The Nuclear Shift Supervisor terminated the Unusual Event at 11:00 p.m. based on the fire being extinguished, the establishment of reflash watch, a determination that the plant was stable, and the availability adequate support staff for contingencies. The fire was contained to the secondary chemistry laboratory, which is inside the protected area but outside of the radiologically controlled area. There was no direct challenge to radiological barriers or mitigation equipment and no indication of any radioactive releases to the environment.

The Region I Public Affairs is prepared to respond to media inquiries. First Energy did not issue a press release.

The resident inspectors responded to the control room, plant spaces adjacent to the fire, and the emergency response facility to evaluate licensee response to the event. The inspectors inspected adjacent plant areas for indications of damage from the fire or fire fighting activities. Unit 2 remained at full power during the fire.

The contents of this PN have been communicated to the Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia state governments.

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