

April 16, 2002

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-02-016

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**

Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant  
FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company  
Oak Harbor, Ohio  
Docket: 50-346  
License: NPF-3

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

SUBJECT: Discrete Radioactive Particles Found Outside the Radiologically Restricted Area

DESCRIPTION:

On March 22, 2002, radiation protection personnel at the Davis-Besse Nuclear Plant were notified by the Oconee nuclear facility that discrete radioactive particles were found on a worker's sleeve. The worker was undergoing in-processing for work at the Oconee facility, and had last worked at the Davis-Besse facility.

The licensee's investigation to date has determined that a total of 13 discrete radioactive particles were recovered from four individuals, their clothing, residences or hotel rooms. Two particles were found at the Davis-Besse facility. The remainder of the particles were found off site from the Davis-Besse facility.

The particles are of fuel origin as the isotopic mix consists of niobium, zirconium, ruthenium, and cerium. The activities of the particles ranged from approximately 2 - 80 nanocuries. Licensee preliminary dose calculations indicate no adverse health effects are expected to either the workers or members of the public from these particles.

The licensee's investigation is ongoing. The licensee is attempting to determine how the particles were transported off site. Region III (Chicago) is dispatching inspectors to the Davis-Besse facility to conduct an inspection of the event, to assess the possible dose consequences, and to evaluate the licensee's investigation into the matter.

Region III (Chicago) management received notification of this occurrence from NRC Region II (Atlanta) on April 12, 2001.

The state of Ohio has been notified. The information in this preliminary notification was provided to licensee management.

This information is current as of 1:30 p.m. (Central Time) on April 16, 2002.

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