

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Date: October 2, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-1-79- 04

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff on this date.

Facility: Power Authority of the State of New York  
Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3  
DN 50-286/Buchanan, New York

POOR ORIGINAL

Subject: INADVERTENT INITIATION OF CONTAINMENT SPRAY SYSTEM

At 2:55 PM on October 1, 1979, containment spray was inadvertently initiated when the incorrect containment spray pump was started while attempting to fill the refueling cavity. Spray lasted approximately 1 minute and delivered approximately 2500 gallons of borated water into the containment.

Approximately 30 personnel inside containment were evacuated. No contamination was observed on the first group of personnel monitored. Additional monitoring was being performed. The licensee is conducting an evaluation of possible equipment damage. Correct valve lineup and other preparations for the refueling cavity fill evolution had been verified for the other train.

Media interest is expected because of sensitivity to nuclear power plant activities.

The State of New York has been informed. A press release is not planned by the licensee or NRC.

NRC, Region I, (Philadelphia) received notification of this occurrence by telephone call from the resident inspector at 3:45 PM, October 1, 1979.

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