

August 17, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-79-349

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of an event 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 Generation, Unit 3
(DN 50-286)
Buchanan, New York

Subject: Plant Trip Due to Electrical Short Circuit

The reactor tripped at 10:25 a.m. when steam from the turbine gland steam seals apparently condensed upon and shorted the Auto-Stop Oil System electrical circuits which normally cause a reactor trip if a turbine trip occurs. This electrical short caused a Reactor Protection System signal which resulted in a reactor trip.

The licensee has provided additional ventilation in the area of the affected circuits to prevent condensation of the steam.

The licensee expects to have the reactor critical by midnight, August 17 and the unit synchronized by 4:00 a.m., August 18, pending reenergization of one of the unit's main transformers which has been out of service for repairs. A routine shutdown had previously been planned for the evening of August 17 to allow reenergization of that transformer.

The Region I Resident Inspector is following the event onsite. No additional Regional action is planned.

Media interest is expected because of the continuing high interest in nuclear power plants in the State of New York. The State of New York has been informed. A press release is not planned by the licensee and/or NRC.

NRC, Region I, (Philadelphia) received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the Region I Resident Inspector onsite at 1:15 P.M. August 17, 1979.

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