

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

July 11, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-79-230

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: Boston Edison Company
Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station Unit 1 (DN 50-293)

Subject: CRACK IN WELD ON CRD RETURN LINE

During routine maintenance in the steam tunnel (outside of the primary containment) on July 10, personnel noted water dripping from piping insulation (lagging) around the 3 inch Control Rod Drive (CRD) return line. The lagging was removed and visual examination revealed a through-wall leak in the downstream weld on the isolation valve in the 3" return line. The leak is not isolable and is reportedly leaking at the rate of 4-5 cups per hour. Reactor shutdown for repair began during the morning of July 11, 1979.

Media interest is expected because of sensitivity to nuclear plant issues. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has been informed. A press release is planned by the licensee. NRC does not plan to make a press release.

NRC, Region I, (Philadelphia) received notification of this occurrence by telephone from a senior plant engineer at 4:03 p.m. on July 10, 1979, and was notified at 9:00 a.m. on July 11, 1979 that the shutdown was in progress.

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