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September 25, 1977

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--FD-77-171

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.

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Facility: Toledo Edison Company, Davis-Besse Unit No. 1 (DN 50-346), Port Clinton, OH

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Subject: LOSS OF REACTOR COOLANT PRESSURE DUE TO FAILURE OF PRESSURIZER POWER OPERATED RELIEF VALVE

DAVIS BESSE
SEPT 24, 1977

Toledo Edison Company reported to RIII (Chicago) that the Davis-Besse Unit 1 reactor coolant system was depressurized from 2185 psig to 870 psig on September 24, 1977, at approximately 9:35 p.m. when an electro-pneumatic pressurizer relief valve failed to close after actuation.

The reactor was operating at approximately 9% of rated power when an apparent governor problem caused a feedwater pump turbine runback. The steam-feedwater rupture control system actuated on low steam generator level closing the main steam isolation valves. The pressurizer electro-pneumatic relief valve operated automatically to relieve the resultant pressure increase; however, the valve failed to close after relieving the pressure surge, thereby depressurizing the primary system.

The operator manually scrammed the reactor. While all safety related systems functioned properly following the scram, the inability to close the pressurizer relief valve resulted in blowing the quench tank rupture disc (relief valve discharges to pressurizer quench tank). Apparent damage was confined to a cracked ventilation duct and the No. 2 steam generator insulation.

There were no releases of radioactivity to the environment and no personal injuries occurred as a result of the event. The licensee estimates the reactor will be shut down two weeks to repair the damage. An RIII inspector is being dispatched to the site.

The licensee has issued a press release. Region III also plans to issue a press release. The State of Ohio has been informed of the occurrence.

RIII (Chicago) received notification of this occurrence by telephone at 8:45 a.m. on September 25, 1977, from the Plant Superintendent.

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