

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Date: January 9, 1981

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-81-02

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: Northeast Nuclear Energy Company
Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit 2 (DN 50-336)
Waterford, Connecticut

Subject: INTRODUCTION OF REACTOR COOLANT INTO NITROGEN SUPPLY SYSTEM

On January 7, 1981 during heatup in preparation for restart, the plant experienced an event which resulted in the introduction of reactor coolant into a nitrogen gas supply system. The event resulted from the failure to close two valves in the nitrogen supply line to the Reactor Coolant System (RCS) pressurizer which allowed reactor coolant fluid flow from the pressurizer through the common nitrogen supply system to one of four safety injection tanks (SIT) and to the plant's containment electrical penetration pressurization system. These valves had been opened during the plant outage for maintenance purposes.

The condition was first indicated by an unexplainable overpressurization of the #1 SIT. Subsequent investigation also revealed a high temperature condition in the tank. The plant heatup was halted with the RCS at about 532 F and 1500 psia.

No physical damage to the SIT or nitrogen supply system piping has been found and no radioactive releases occurred. However, water has been found in the nitrogen supply piping to the containment electrical penetrations. No indication of electrical or instrumentation anomalies has occurred.

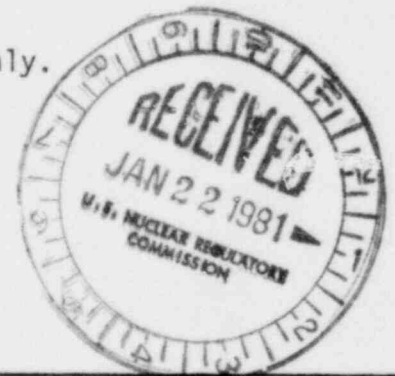
The licensee is investigating the event, formulating plans to evaluate and recover plant systems, and reviewing systems' designs and procedures to preclude recurrence.

The NRC Resident Inspector and four other inspectors dispatched to the site are following the licensee's progress and actions. Plant restart is not expected until sometime next week. NRC concurrence with licensee recovery and corrective actions will be required prior to restart.

Media interest is being received. The licensee has issued a press release. The NRC does not plan to issue a press release. The State of Connecticut was informed by the licensee. NRC received initial notification of this event from the licensee on January 7, 1981 at 9:30 PM.

This Preliminary Notification is issued for information only.

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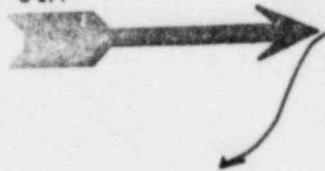
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