

Date: April 1, 1981

## PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-81-43

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  
James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Station (DN 50-333)  
Scriba, New York

Subject: FAILURE OF RECIRCULATION PUMP SEAL

At about 11:20 a.m. on April 1, 1981, the licensee informed the NRC Resident Inspector that an increase in drywell leakage had been observed and that the plant was reducing power. The licensee was in the process of confirming the suspected cause of the increased leakage. The licensee entered his Emergency Plan and classified this occurrence as an Unusual Event. The licensee confirmed that the cause of the leakage was the failure of the "A" recirculation pump seal. Drywell identified leakage was measured at about 15 gpm, unidentified leakage at about 7 gpm. Technical Specification limits are 5 gpm unidentified, 25 gpm total. No release of radioactivity occurred and there was no need for protective actions outside site boundaries. The licensee plans a shutdown to cold conditions and plans an outage of about one week's duration to repair the pumps. The NRC Resident Inspector will follow further developments.

The licensee is planning to issue a press release, the NRC will not issue a press release but will respond to inquiries.

The State of New York has been notified.

NRC Region I (Philadelphia) received notification of this occurrence by an ENS call from the licensee and by a call from the Resident Inspector at 11:35 a.m., April 1, 1981.

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