

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Date: November 17, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-80- 166

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: Baltimore Gas & Electric Company
Calvert Cliffs, Unit 2
Lusby, Maryland
(DN 50-317)

Subject: UNPLANNED NOBLE GAS RELEASE

About 11:25 a.m., November 16, 1980, a plant emergency was declared when 3 radiation alarms were received while spent resin was being transferred from a deborating ion exchanger. The problem was found to be a discharge valve on an on-line CVCS purification ion exchanger, with that valve indicating shut but being slightly open because of binding of its position indicator, resulting in discharge from the hotter, on-line ion exchanger as well as from the deborating ion exchanger. The discharge was secured when the alarms were received. Conditions returned to normal and the plant emergency was declared over by 12:30 p.m. The maximum noble gas release rate was about 9% of the instantaneous limit.

The licensee made a press release. Media interest has occurred. No NRC press release is planned. Region I will respond to media inquiries. The State of Maryland has been informed.

An ENS report was made to the NRC Duty Officer about noon, November 16. The Senior Resident Inspector was informed about 12:25 p.m., November 16.

Contact: E. C. McCabe, Jr. 488-1251
Prepared by EXT
E. J. Brunner 488-1240
Branch Chief EXT

P. J. Knaap 488-1291
Section Chief EXT

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