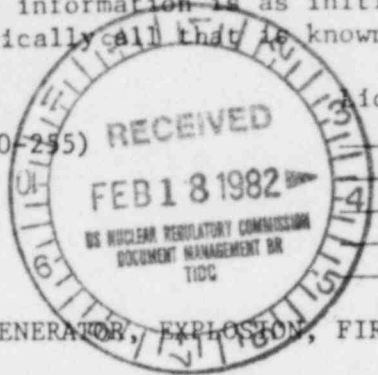


This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the staff on this date.

Facility: Consumers Power Company
Palisades (Docket No. 50-295)
Jackson, MI



Licensee Emergency Classification:
Notification of Unusual Event
Alert
Site Area Emergency
General Emergency
 Not Applicable

Subject: HYDROGEN LEAK ON MAIN GENERATOR, EXPLOSION, FIRE AND PERSONNEL INJURY (UPDATE)

The plant is currently in the cold shutdown mode. Initial examination of the main generator indicates that this unit is undamaged. Additional visual and circuitry checks will be performed during the week.

Examination of the excitor and the excitor housing reveals that both are damaged. Repairs of the excitor, the excitor service water lines and heat exchanger are in progress. The excitor housing received extensive damage; however, it appears that it too can be repaired and returned to service. These repairs are also in progress. All of the above repairs are expected to be completed such that a plant restart can occur as early as February 16, 1982.

The source of the hydrogen leakage into the excitor housing appears to have been past a shaft seal on the drive shaft between the main generator and the excitor. One other small leak was found on the generator thermocouple manifold. This leak was some 30 feet from the excitor and disipated directly into the turbine building atmosphere, thus, it is not believed that this smaller leak contributed to this event.

The licensee has not positively identified the source of the hydrogen ignition but it is believed that it was associated with various excitor control circuitry or an automatic humidity control system housed inside the excitor housing.

A licensee inspection team has been assembled to examine all aspects of this event. This includes corrective and preventative actions to preclude a recurrence of this type of accident. In addition to the hydrogen aspects of this event, the task force will conduct a walk down examination of all areas subject to water impingement initiated malfunction (such as the 4160 volt switchgear) to determine what corrective actions are warranted, and to assure that all circuits and components wetted down during this event are operable.

The condition of the construction contractor is presently listed as fair and stable. He has been taken out of the intensive care unit.

The State of Michigan has been notified.

This information update was received from the site Resident Inspectors and is current at of 12:00 p.m. (noon) on February 11, 1982.

Contact: D. Boyd, RIII FTS 384-2546 R.C. Knop, RIII FTS 384-2547 K. L. Stressard, RIII FTS 384-2552

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