

Date: May 20, 1993

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PN39330

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 Region III staff on this date.

Facility:
Cleveland Electric
Illuminating Company
Perry Nuclear Power Station
Perry, Ohio

	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
_____	General Emergency
_____	Site Area Emergency
_____	Alert
_____	Unusual Event
<u>_____</u>	<u>X</u> N/A

SUBJECT: RESIDUAL HEAT REMOVAL B STRAINER FOULING DURING TESTING

At about 2 p.m. (EDT) on May 19, 1993, during a 12 hour test run on residual heat removal (RHR) loop B, the RHR pump suction strainer which was newly installed in the suppression pool showed signs of fouling. Shortly afterwards, plant personnel directly observed material fouling the strainer.

Six newly designed strainers had been installed in the suppression pool after the licensee found in January 1993 that the RHR A & B suction strainers were fouled and partially collapsed. Plant personnel were conducting the May 19, 1993, test run using only the one strainer associated with RHR loop B and running the suppression pool cleanup system which uses the high pressure core spray (HPCS) suction strainer.

Earlier this week, plant personnel had run another test to determine what the pressure differential across the strainer would be if it was 80 percent fouled and the result was 1.1 pounds per square inch differential (psid). When the May 19, 1993, run was completed, the strainer's maximum pressure differential was initially determined to be 1.6 psid which appeared to indicate a greater than 80 percent fouling of the strainer. However, after the pump was shutdown, the static pressure reading on the pump suction gauge did not correlate to the static head of water in the suppression pool. The instrument line was vented and the actual strainer pressure differential was determined to be 0.6 psid vice 1.6 psid. This still indicates that some amount of fouling had occurred, and was consistent with the visual observations made of the strainer, but that the amount of fouling was less than previously thought. No fouling of the HPCS strainer was noted.

RHR B was then run a second time for eight additional hours. During that time the strainer pressure differential increased by 0.1 psid to 0.7 psid. This indicates that additional material was collected on the strainer. During this eight hour run, the low pressure core spray (LPCS) system was also run for eight hours with no apparent change in its strainer differential pressure.

The licensee is assessing the situation and attempting to determine the cause of the fouling. A diver will go into the pool today to look at and clean the strainer. It is anticipated that the fouled strainer will impact the plant's predicted start-up date of May 21, 1993.

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Region III is reviewing the licensee's determinations as they become available.

The state of Ohio will be informed. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

This information is current as of 10 a.m. CDT on May 20, 1993.

CONTACT:

RJ
Roger Lanksbury
708/790-5644

SS
Stan Stasek
708/790-5578

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