

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-91-5

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 I staff on this date.

Facility:
Boston Edison Company
Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station
Plymouth, MA
DN 50-293

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

Subject: TURBINE BUILDING ROOF FIRE

On January 11, 1991 at 8:07 p.m., with the plant at 100% of rated power, maintenance personnel informed the control room of smoke in the vicinity of the turbine building "A" ventilation exhaust fan. Maintenance personnel had been welding reinforcing brackets into the fan housing when the smoke was observed. The fire brigade was dispatched to the area and at 8:23 p.m.; the brigade confirmed the presence of smoldering (no visible flames) roofing material. At 8:31 p.m., control room operators reduced reactor power to 68% and secured the "A" reactor feed pump located directly below the affected fan housing as an electrical safety precaution.

Additionally at 8:31 p.m., BECo declared an Unusual Event and made appropriate onsite notification. At 8:33 p.m., BECo requested the assistance of the Town of Plymouth Fire Department.

Town of Plymouth Fire Department response personnel arrived onsite at 8:55 p.m. The smoldering material was extinguished jointly by the Pilgrim fire brigade and the Plymouth Town fire department by 10:00 p.m. and the NUE was terminated.

BECo issued emergency dosimetry to all responding Town of Plymouth personnel. Resident inspector review of the dosimetry indicated all exposures to be less than 10 mRem. There were no personnel injuries and no releases of radioactive material.

The senior resident inspector responded to the site following the event. The reactor is currently at 100% of rated power as of 10:00 a.m. on 1/14/91.

There have been several media inquiries regarding this event. BECo issued a press release. The State of Massachusetts has been informed.

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(Reactor Licensees)

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