

* PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-91-73

- * This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information has been confirmed by the licensee, and is basically all that is known by the Region I staff on this date.

Facility:
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
Nine Mile Point Unit 2
Scriba, New York
Docket No. 50-410

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

Subject: UNCONTROLLED RELEASE OF A FLAMMABLE GAS IN THE TURBINE BUILDING

At about 2:00 p.m. on October 23, 1991, a shattered main generator liquid detector (sight glass) was discovered leaking hydrogen gas into the turbine building. The leak was isolated and an Unusual Event was declared due to the uncontrolled release of flammable gas. The leak was found by an operator investigating a hissing sound coming from the sight glass. At about the time of isolating the sight glass, a turbine building hydrogen detector alarmed momentarily in the control room and then the alarm cleared.

At the time of the event the unit was at approximately 55% power recovering from an unrelated loss of condenser vacuum condition that occurred at 1:37 p.m.

The licensee sampled the turbine building for hydrogen pockets and evaluated methods to ventilate the building. In the interim, the licensee suspended activities that had potential for igniting hydrogen pockets. Hydrogen pressure fell from a nominal 70 psig to 30 psig and an estimated 10,000 standard cubic feet of hydrogen was released to the turbine building. No explosive pockets of hydrogen were found and the roof vents were opened. The licensee terminated the Unusual Event at 5:25 p.m.

The licensee issued a press release regarding this event. The State of New York has been notified. NRC resident inspectors responded to the control room and monitored the licensee's response.

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