

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

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:	Licensee Emergency Classification:
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation	<input type="checkbox"/> Notification of Unusual Event
Nine Mile Point Unit 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Alert
Docket No. 50-410	<input type="checkbox"/> Site Area Emergency
Scriba, New York	<input type="checkbox"/> General Emergency
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable

Subject: TWO NONIRRADIATED FUEL BUNDLES WERE DROPPED AT NINE MILE POINT UNIT 2

At 8:15 a.m. on 12/19 two new (nonirradiated) fuel bundles fell from their metal shipping container (MSC), when pivoted to the vertical position, in the process of being transferred to the new fuel inspection rack. One bundle landed on top of the other on the refuel floor in the reactor building. Each bundle was slightly bent and twisted by the fall. There was no apparent fuel cladding damage, based on visual inspection. There were no personnel injuries and no damage to other equipment. Niagara Mohawk performed radiological surveys and determined there were no radiological consequences.

Preliminary review indicates that the MSC bundle hold-down fixtures and safety straps around the MSC, which are designed to prevent the bundles from falling, were not installed as specified in the fuel handling procedure. Niagara Mohawk has suspended refuel floor work and is performing a formal investigation to determine the root cause of the event.

The resident inspectors are onsite investigating the cause of the dropped fuel bundles and the corrective actions taken by NMPC.

Media coverage of this event is expected.

The State of New York has been notified.

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INPO-3:46 P.m.
NSAC-3:45 P.m.

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Licensee: 3:50 P.m.
(Reactor Licensees)

Region I Form 83
(Rev. July 1991)

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