

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-96-008

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 Region III staff (Lisle, Illinois) on this date.

Facility  
Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co.  
Perry 1  
Perry, Ohio  
Dockets: 50-440

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

Subject: STARTUP TRANSFORMER EXPLOSION

At about 3:30 p.m. (EST) on February 5, 1996, an explosion occurred in the Unit 1 startup transformer. The plant has been shut down since January 27 for a refueling and maintenance outage.

At 3:13 p.m. the deluge fire protection system for the transformer initiated. Subsequently, an explosion occurred with a fire ball emerging from the top of the transformer. A minor fire continued to burn after the explosion.

At the time of the event, the plant's non-safety-related electrical loads were being provided by the Unit 1 transformer. Safety-related electrical loads were being provided by the Unit 2 startup transformer. (Some equipment from the never-completed Unit 2 is connected to Unit 1.) The non-safety-related loads were automatically transferred from the Unit 1 transformer to the Unit 2 transformer. No emergency diesel generators were required to start.

The Perry Township Fire Department was notified and responded to the site. The licensee declared an Unusual Event under its emergency plan. As part of the licensee's abnormal event procedures, all personnel were evacuated from the drywell and containment.

The Unusual Event classification was terminated at 4:20 p.m. after the fire was verified to be extinguished. The licensee is continuing its investigation of the cause of the explosion and fire. Electrical loads continued to be supplied from the Unit 2 startup transformer. The licensee has rescheduled work associated with the main transformer to allow restoration of the auxiliary transformer as an off site power source. (The plant currently meets license requirements for power sources -- one off-site connection, the Unit 2 startup transformer -- and at least one emergency diesel generator -- two are actually available.)

The licensee notified the NRC Operations Center of this event at 3:50 p.m. (EST) on February 5, 1996. This information is current as of 9 a.m. on February 6, 1996.

The resident inspectors are monitoring the licensee's activities. The Senior Resident Inspector observed the explosion as it occurred.

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