

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-84-105

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: Consolidated Edison Co. of
New York
Indian Point Unit 2
Buchanan, NY 10511
DN 50-247

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

Subject: TURBINE-GENERATOR FIRE

At 9:55 p.m., December 19, a fire started on the exciter end of the main generator. The licensee extinguished the fire within 30 minutes. The local Verplank fire department, called out by the licensee to assist, arrived five minutes after the fire was out and remained 45 minutes in the event of a re-flash.

While rapidly reducing power, a Lo-Lo steam generator level reactor trip occurred. In conjunction with the trip, the main steam dumps opened causing a high steam line flow safety injection actuation. No actual injection of water occurred since reactor pressure never decreased to that of the safety injection pumps. All primary systems functioned as designed. The plant is currently in a hot shutdown condition.

The unusual event was terminated at 10:55 p.m.

The licensee is testing the generator and a Westinghouse representative is evaluating seal damage. Should the seal require replacement, a three-day outage will be necessary.

The Senior Resident inspector is following the licensee's action.

The licensee has issued a press release. The State of New York has been notified.

Circumstances Leading Up to the Fire

The licensee was aware of a hydrogen leak and believed it to have been stopped with the isolation of the southeast hydrogen cooler. An oil leak was also present and was believed to originate in the generator-end exciter bearing. When the protective flashing was removed from the area, the oil leak was discovered to be from the main generator. Shift personnel manufactured an aluminum funnel device to contain the oil leak and while putting this in place, brushed the rotating shaft and started a small fire, apparently from hydrogen leaking from the generator. This fire was extinguished within one minute with CO2 extinguishers. As a precaution, charged fire hoses were run out to the scene.

The senior watch supervisor decided to adjust the oil pressure in the hydrogen seal oil system in an attempt to stop the hydrogen and oil leak. Oil began spraying out along the shaft and the hydrogen-oil mixture ignited before the oil pressure could be re-adjusted. The area was immediately cooled with the fire hoses and apparently only superficial damage resulted.

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(Reactor Licensees)

Region I Form 83
(Rev. July, 1984)