

DCS No: 50293-850131
Date: January 31, 1985

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-85-05

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, Massachusetts
DN 50-293

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

Subject: UNPLANNED RELEASE OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL

At about 9:30 a.m. on January 31, 1985, a health physics technician, overseeing work at the Main Stack, noticed flake like material coming out of the stack and falling on the ground at the base of the stack. The flakes emanated from the stack for about 5 minutes. The 1 inch by 2 inch flakes measured about 1000-2000 counts per minute (CPM) on contact. Due to light wind conditions the flakes fell within the fenced area at the stack. The licensee posted the area and initiated vacuuming of the flakes. Licensee initial reviews indicated the flakes were apparently portions of the stack HEPA filters which were blown out following pressurization of stack duct work. The licensee is replacing the filters. The pressurization was apparently due to improper venting of high pressure air from a condensate demineralizer into the exhaust system. The licensee was using a new separator for the first time to vent the demineralizer. The venting was secured. The licensee is investigating the cause of the improper venting.

Two workers inside the base of the stack were contaminated (approx. 60,000 cpm) when the duct was pressurized forcing short lived activity into their work area. The workers were decontaminated and whole body counted. No significant intake of radioactive material by the workers was identified.

NRC Region I operations and radiation safety personnel are monitoring the licensee's actions. The licensee has informed the news media. Region I is prepared to respond to inquiries.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts was notified.

NRC Region I received notification of the occurrence by telephone from the Headquarters Duty Officer at 1:00 p.m. on January 31, 1985.

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 488-1207 488-1281 488-1200

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