

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Date: March 17, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-III-80-50

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff as of this date.

Facility: Consumers Power Company, Midland Site  
(DN 50-329; 50-330) Midland, MI

Subject: WELDING GAS DETONATION AT MIDLAND CONSTRUCTION SITE

Consumers Power Company notified the resident inspector of a detonation of a reactive gas used for welding operations at the Midland construction site.

Two pipefitters were attempting to find a gas leak. During the checks, they broke a hose coupling containing the gas at a pressure of 40 PSI. The gas was apparently detonated by activation of a two way radio being used by a person near the hose.

All three men received second and third degree burns over fifteen percent of their bodies. Initial prognosis is that the men's eyes and lungs are not damaged. Some minor equipment damage occurred in the auxiliary building.

The event is being covered by local news media. The NRC does not intend to issue a press release. The State of Michigan and OSHA are being notified.

Consumers Power notified the resident inspector at 2:40 p.m. on March 15, 1980.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only and no further action by IE is anticipated.

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