

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-III-88-78 Date September 6, 1988

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 III staff on this date.

Facility: Cleveland Electric Illuminating
Company
Perry
Perry, OH 44081

Docket No. 50-440

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

Subject: FIRE IN TWO CHARCOAL ADSORBER TANKS IN OFFGAS SYSTEM

At 10:35 a.m. (EDT), September 4, 1988, while operating at 100 percent power, reactor operators noted that temperatures were gradually increasing in the 12A and 12B offgas system's charcoal adsorber tanks. (The offgas system filters noncondensable gases from the turbine condenser.)

The operators realigned the system to isolate and bypass the two tanks. (The system contains two trains of charcoal filters with each train consisting of four tanks. The first tank in each of the two trains contained the burning charcoal.)

The licensee declared an unusual event at 12:10 p.m. (EDT), reduced power to 70 percent, and completed all required notifications within 15 minutes.

The incident began when the "A" steam jet air ejector automatically isolated on low flow at 9:25 a.m. Over the next five minutes, operators placed the "B" air ejector into service. A slug of noncondensable gases and moisture was introduced into the offgas system. Hydrogen concentration spiked to greater than five percent and then returned to normal (approximately .2 percent).

Two auxiliary operators who had been dispatched to refill offgas system loop seals lost during the transient reported hearing a popping noise in the vicinity of the offgas system. Shortly thereafter, temperatures began increasing in the two tanks, peaking at 659.5 degrees F in 12A and 582.2 degrees F in 12B. (The cause of the fire has still not been officially determined and is under investigation.)

At 2:32 p.m., the licensee began a nitrogen purge of the two tanks. By 8 a.m. (EDT), September 6, the temperature in the 12A tank had been reduced to 6 degrees F, and the temperature in the 12B tank to 67 degrees (normal temperatures range from 3 to -10 degrees F).

8809140418 880906
PDR I&E
PNO-III-88-078 PDC

DISTRIBUTION:

WFN 1
Chairman Zech
Comm. Roberts
Comm. Carr
Comm. Rogers
SECY

MNBB
AEOD
ARM
1WFN
PA
OGC

1WFN
NRR

Resident Inspector Offices
Resident Inspector

E/W
OIA
OI

WFN 1
NMSS
SLITP
Mail To:
DCS (Original)
DOT (Trans. Only)

OGC-H
CA
GPA
ACRS
PDR

FAX TO:
INPO
NSAC
Licensee
HQS. Operations Officer

Nicholson Lane
RES

Regions
Region I
Region II
Region IV
Region V

JE34
01

Region III
Rev. June 1988

- 2 -

Throughout the event, offgas system radiation levels remained well within licensed limits.

The unusual event remains in effect. The senior resident inspector arrived onsite at 1 p.m. (EDT), September 4, and has been monitoring the licensee's course of action. A Commissioners assistants conference call was held at 5 p.m. (EDT), September 4, to discuss the event. Region III (Chicago) will continue to monitor the event to ensure the fires are completely extinguished before cessation of the nitrogen purge.

The State of Ohio will be notified.

The Headquarters Duty Officer was first informed of this event at 12:10 p.m. (EDT), September 4, 1988. This information is current as of 12:15 p.m. (CDT), September 6, 1988.

CONTACT: R. Cooper
FTS 388-5578

R. Knop
FTS 388-547

C/R Distribution: Chm, Cmrs,
GPA, GC, CA, PDR, Historian,
SECY, Records.