

DCD

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:
 Notification of an Unusual Event *WJL*
 Alert
 Site Area Emergency
 General Emergency
 Not Applicable

Subject: SHUTDOWN TO INVESTIGATE OFFGAS SYSTEM PROBLEM

On September 16, 1988, reactor operators observed a decrease in the flow through the offgas system, coupled with a drop in generator electrical output and a decrease in the main condenser vacuum. The plant had been operating at 100 percent power. (The offgas system draws noncondensable gases from the condenser. The gases pass through a hydrogen recombiner, particulate filters, and a series of charcoal adsorber tanks before being released to the atmosphere.)

Operators began to reduce power and placed a second steam jet air ejector in service. The nitrogen flow was also increased into the first charcoal tanks of both four-tank charcoal adsorber systems. A nitrogen purge of the tanks has been maintained since September 4, 1988, when the charcoal began to burn. (Reference: PNO-III-88-78)

Subsequently, there were two "booms" heard by licensee personnel with a simultaneous spike in the flow rate through the offgas system. Elevated carbon monoxide levels were also detected in an offgas sample. The licensee has not determined if the spikes and sounds were caused by a hydrogen burn or by a water hammer in a loop seal.

There is no evidence of any further burning in the charcoal adsorber tanks. Throughout the event there was no increase in temperature levels in the two tanks affected earlier.

The licensee declared an unusual event under its emergency plan and a prior agreement with Region III at 10:02 p.m. and began to shut the plant down to investigate the offgas problem. The unusual event was terminated at 7:30 a.m. on September 18, 1988.

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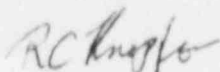
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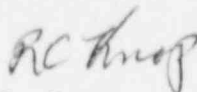
The resident inspector arrived at the plant at 10:45 p.m. on September 17, 1988, to monitor the licensee's activities. Region III will dispatch additional inspectors to the site to review the licensee's investigation and assessment of the offgas system problem.

The State of Ohio has been notified of this event.

The licensee notified the Headquarters Operation Center of this event at 10:19 p.m. (EDT) on September 16, 1988. This information is current as of 10 a.m., September 19, 1988.



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