

October 21, 1998

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-98-048

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 Region III staff (Lisle, Illinois) on this date.

Facility	Licensee Emergency Classification
Detroit Edison Co.	Notification of Unusual Event
Fermi 2	Alert
Newport, Michigan	Site Area Emergency
Dockets: 50-341	General Emergency
	X Not Applicable

Subject: DECL. OF ALERT COND. DUE TO FIRE IN EMERG. DIESEL GEN. CONTROL PANEL

October 8, 1998, at 2:30 a.m. with the plant in day 33 of a refueling outage, Detroit Edison Co. declared an ALERT based on an operator report of smoke and a fire alarm coming from Emergency Diesel Generator (EDG) #12 Control Panel in the switchgear room. One of the plant emergency action levels calls for declaring an ALERT for "Fire or explosion affecting the operability of plant safety systems required to establish or maintain safe shutdown." Because EDG #12 was in a 24-hour continuous run following planned maintenance activities and not being relied upon, this was a conservative declaration.

The operator tripped EDG #12, opened the output breaker and left the switchgear room. Shutdown cooling was not affected and no electrical buses were lost. When personnel re-entered the area with self-contained breathing apparatus, they found smoke but no flames. They opened the back of the EDG #12 Control Panel and found the source of the smoke had been a current limiting transformer for the EDG exciter field.

The senior resident inspector arrived on site roughly 1 hour into the event and has been following the licensee's actions. The alert was terminated at 3:50 a.m. The licensee has informed news organizations in Monroe and Detroit, Michigan, and in Toledo, Ohio.

The cause of the failed transformer is under investigation. Region III is also monitoring the licensee's actions.

State and Local officials were notified.

This information is current as of 11:00 a.m. on October 8, 1998, and has been reviewed with licensee management.

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