

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 Unit 1
 Perry, OH 44081

 Docket No. 50-440

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

Handwritten initials

Subject: REACTOR SCRAM CAUSED BY INCREASED RECIRCULATION FLOW

At 2:32 p.m. (EDT) on June 16, 1988, the reactor scrambled because of high power level as measured by the neutron production (flux) in the reactor core. The plant had been operating at 98 percent power.

At the time, instrument technicians had just replaced a printed circuit board in the automatic control circuitry for the recirculation system. The circuit board had been removed for testing and calibration.

When the circuit board was inserted, a signal was generated in the recirculation flow control system causing rapid opening of the system's flow control valves. The reactor recirculation flow increase caused the increase in power level. The reactor scrambled when the neutron flux reached the 120 percent setpoint. Because of the short duration of the flux increase, there was only a negligible thermal power increase.

The cause of the spurious signal remains under investigation. The plant remains shut down for a previously planned three-day outage. NRC Region III will discuss the licensee's evaluations and investigation results root cause determination prior to plant restart.

The resident inspector will monitor the licensee's investigation of the incident and the outage activities.

The State of Ohio will be notified.

The licensee notified the Headquarters Operation Center of this event at 4:04 p.m. (EST), June 16, 1988. This information is current as of 10 a.m., June 17, 1988.

Edwin A. Zimmerman

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