

May 19, 1999

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-99-026

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 I staff in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania on this date.

Facility

Boston Edison Co.
Pilgrim 1
Plymouth, Massachusetts
Dockets: 50-293

Licensee Emergency Classification

X Notification of Unusual Event
Alert
Site Area Emergency
General Emergency
Not Applicable

Subject: MAIN TRANSFORMER FIRE - MEDIA INTEREST

At 6:32 p.m. on May 18, 1999, a fire occurred at the Pilgrim Station in the main electrical transformer. At the time of the event, the unit was in a refueling outage and the main transformer was electrically isolated, with the transformer oil drained to support maintenance and testing activities. A post-maintenance test was in progress for a component (bushing) that had been replaced during the outage. Shortly after the fire was discovered, the licensee requested off-site firefighting assistance. An Unusual Event was declared at 6:52 p.m. based on the request for this assistance. The fire was characterized as "smoldering with no visible flames."

Carbon dioxide and a small amount of water was used to suppress the fire. The fire was extinguished at 8:21 p.m., and the Unusual Event was terminated at 9:25 p.m.

The fire had no adverse effect on the plant other than immediate damage to the transformer. Except for a planned outage of the "A" emergency diesel generator and its associated vital bus, the plant's on-site and off-site vital electrical equipment remained available throughout the event. The licensee's initial damage assessment revealed that a bushing and current transformer electrical lead within the main transformer were damaged. The cause of the fire is under investigation by the licensee. One minor injury occurred to a fire brigade member as a result of static discharge during use of a carbon dioxide extinguisher. The individual was transported to a hospital and subsequently released.

The resident inspector responded to the site upon notification of the event.

The licensee issued a Press Release on May 19, 1999.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has been notified of the event.

Region I received initial notification of the occurrence by telephone call from Eric Olson at 7:13 p.m., on May 18, 1999. The information presented in this PN has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 11:00 a.m., May 19, 1999.

Contact: ANDERSON, CLIFFORD
(610)337-5227

LAURA, RICH
(508)747-0565

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PDR I&E
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