

PDR advance copy
J. R. Kelly

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

January 17, 1977

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-77-11

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of an event of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff on this date.

Facility: Salem Unit 1 (DN 50-272)

Subject: HYDRAULIC OIL FIRE

A 1/4 inch high pressure hydraulic line on the No. 12 Main Steam Isolation Valve (MSIV) failed on January 15, 1977 while the reactor was critical (below 1% power) in Mode 2. The failure was similar to the one which occurred on December 29, 1976 (Reference PNO 76-226). Oil from the failed line sprayed on insulation covering hot steam lines and a small fire resulted. The fire was extinguished using dry chemicals. There was no equipment damage as a result of the fire.

On January 16, 1977 a similar line on the No. 11 MSIV also failed with the reactor critical in Mode 2. There was no fire associated with this failure.

The hydraulic line failures are occurring at compression type fittings. The exact cause of the failures has not yet been determined.

The plant has been placed in hot shutdown, Mode 4. The licensee is evaluating the cause of the pipe failures. The evaluation will be completed prior to plant startup.

The licensee is in the process of replacing the failed lines and fittings on all MSIVs. Stronger lines and a different type of fitting are being used. This effort is proceeding concurrently with the engineering evaluation, based on the licensee's anticipation that this replacement will be a satisfactory solution to the failures.

Media interest is expected because of a previous similar occurrence on December 29, 1976, and close attention being given to problems at nuclear facilities. The State of New Jersey has been informed. A press release is not planned at this time.

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NRC, Region I, (Philadelphia) received notification of these occurrences by telephone from Plant Superintendent at 4:45 PM, January 15 and 9:00 AM, January 17, 1977.

Contact: FADreher, IE x27261 GWRoy, IE x27261 DThompson, IE x27541

Distribution:

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Transmitted: PBldg 12:12p; H St. 12:15p; MNBB 12:18p; Luge mail;

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Reg. I - 12:20 pm