

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-87-79

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 I staff on this date.

Facility:
Pennsylvania Power and Light
Susquehanna Steam Electric Station
DN 50-387/50-388

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

Subject: SHIFT SUPERVISOR RELIEVED OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR INATTENTIVENESS

Pennsylvania Power and Light reported to the NRC on August 10 that a shift supervisor at the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station had been relieved of his supervisory responsibilities following the results of a preliminary investigation into an allegation that he had been inattentive while on the midnight shift. The allegation was made anonymously in a letter from a plant operator received on August 7 by the manager of the licensee's corporate Nuclear Safety Assessment Group (NSAG).

The licensee's initial review of the allegation, which included interviews with members of the shift supervisor's assigned shift, concluded that the allegation was credible, therefore the individual was removed from his shift responsibilities. The licensee also stated that the individual in question was experiencing personal problems that apparently affected his ability to remain alert on shift. The interviews with other operators determined that some instances had been noted where the shift supervisor was observed with his eyes closed while sitting at his desk in the Shift Supervisor's office, adjacent to the Control Room.

The licensee has commenced a formal investigation of the allegation, but currently believes that this is an isolated case. Increased unannounced inspections of the midnight shift activities by senior station management, on a daily basis, have been instituted. The NSAG has also commenced interviews with operators to determine the extent of the problems, if any. Initial review of the event indicates individuals were aware of the inattentiveness of the shift supervisor as early as June 16, 1987.

A management meeting with NRC Region I is planned following completion of the licensee's investigation. The licensee discussed its planned actions with NRC Region I management in a conference call on August 10, 1987.

The licensee has issued a press release, and significant interest is expected.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been informed.

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Licensee Emergency Classification:

____ Notification of Unusual Event
____ Alert
____ Site Area Emergency
____ General Emergency
☒ Not Applicable

Subject: Shift Supervisor Relieved of Responsibilities for Inattentiveness

Pennsylvania Power and Light reported to the NRC on 8/10 that a shift supervisor at the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station had been relieved of his supervisory responsibilities following preliminary results of an investigation into an allegation that he had been inattentive while on the midnight shift. The allegation was made anonymously in a letter from a plant operator received on 8/7 by the manager of the Nuclear Safety Assessment Group (NSAG).

The licensee's initial review of the allegation, which included interviews with members of the shift supervisor's assigned shift, concluded that the allegation was credible, and the individual was removed from his shift responsibilities. ~~At the time of the investigation, on 8/7, the individual was on vacation and could not be reached.~~ The licensee also stated that the individual in question was experiencing personal problems that apparently affected his ability to remain alert on shift. The interviews with other operators determined that some instances had been noted where the shift supervisor was observed with his eyes closed while sitting at his desk in the Shift Supervisor's office, adjacent to the Control Room.

The licensee has commenced an investigation of the allegation, but currently feels that this is an isolated case. Increased unannounced inspections of the midnight shift activities by senior station management, on a daily basis, has been instituted. The NSAG has also commenced interviews with operators to determine the extent of the problems, if any. Initial review of the event indicates individuals were aware of the inattentiveness of the shift supervisor as early as June 16, 1987.

Region I Form 83 (Rev. January, 1983) A management meeting with NRC Region I is planned following completion of the licensee's investigation. The licensee discussed its planned actions with NRC Region I management in a conference call on 8/10.

The licensee has issued a press release, and significant interest is expected.

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