

Date: June 13, 1989

• PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-89-44

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:

James A. Fitzpatrick
New York Power Authority
Oswego, New York
Docket No. 50-333

Licensee Emergency Classification:

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

Subject: UNPLANNED RADIATION EXPOSURE OF TWO WORKERS

Two contractor workers received unplanned exposures while working around the refueling pool on the second shift on June 12, 1989. The unplanned exposures for the workers, based on official record dosimetry, were 570 and 280 millirem, with a total quarterly dose of 1240 and 960 millirem, respectively. A routine radiation survey had been conducted in the work area at about 1730 hours and the survey showed normal, expected radiation fields (1-2 mrem/hr). Soon after that, a tool was to be brought up from within the pool, and a health physics technician was asked to monitor the operation. The technician found an exposure rate of about 300 mR/hr close to the surface of the pool. The tool was reinserted but the high reading remained. Further surveys identified a very localized radiation source at the edge of the pool near the surface that showed up to 600 R/hr as it was approached. Two area radiation monitors located in the general area around the pool but not near the surface did not show unusual readings and therefore did not alarm. The radiation monitor on the refueling bridge was malfunctioning at the time.

The licensee immediately suspended work and secured access to the refueling floor, and an investigation into the cause and corrective actions was initiated. The workers' dosimeters were read to assess the dose received. The licensee is currently trying to decide on a method to capture the radiation source, believed to be a "hot particle", and to determine what additional corrective actions are appropriate. A Region I based radiation specialist has been sent to the site to evaluate licensee actions.

Region I was made aware of this event by the resident inspector following his notification by the plant manager.

This information is current as of 8:30 a.m., June 13, 1989. The licensee does not plan issuing a press release. The State of New York has been informed.

CONTACT: R. Nimitz
337-5267

J. Johnson
337-5234

8906210093 890613
PDR I&E
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