

POR Advance Cy per J Raskie
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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

January 5, 1978

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-78-01

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: James A. FitzPatrick (DN 50-333)
Scriba, New York

Subject: OFF-GAS SYSTEM

The licensee experienced problems in placing the hydrogen Off-Gas Recombiner System in operation on January 4, 1978. It appears that a sustained hydrogen combustion is occurring in the piping between the Air Ejectors used on the main turbine condenser and the hydrogen Off-Gas Recombiner. Temperature and pressure instrumentation monitoring this section of piping are operating below their alarm setpoints. The plant is operating at 100 percent power level. Radiation release rates have not been affected.

This condition has previously been identified by the General Electric Company to the licensee by their Service Letter No. SIL 246.

This service letter described the sustained combustion condition based upon occurrences at other plants. The licensee plans to attempt to extinguish the combustion this evening in accordance with the service letter instructions.

Media interest is expected because of sensitivity to BWR Off-Gas System problems. The State of New York has been informed. A press release is not planned by the licensee nor NRC.

NRC, Region I, (Philadelphia) received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the Plant Superintendent at 8:45 a.m., January 5, 1978.

Contact: GKlingler IE, x28019 FNolan IE x28019 JSniezek IE, x28019

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