

November 4, 2004

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-04-014

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 III staff on this date.

Facility

Perry Nuclear Power Plant
FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Co.
Perry OH
Docket: 50-440

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: CHEMICAL SPILL IN WATER TREATMENT BUILDING

DESCRIPTION:

At 10:54 a.m. EST on November 4, 2004, the licensee declared an Unusual Event as the result of a chemical spill in the water treatment building, located adjacent to the turbine building. Water from the municipal water system is treated in the building with demineralizers for use in plant systems. The treatment process involves dilute solutions of sulfuric acid and sodium hydroxide.

A gasket for the viewing window in the water treatment tank failed, spilling the dilute solution and resin beads into the building. Two workers were nearby and promptly left the building. One of the workers was taken by car to a local hospital for observation.

Plant operations were not affected by the spill. The licensee is cleaning up the area of the spill and evaluating its effect on other equipment in the building. None of the equipment is safety related.

The NRC resident inspectors are monitoring the licensee's response to the incident.

The licensee informed local news media of the incident, and Region III (Chicago) has responded to news media inquiries. The State of Ohio has been notified. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

The licensee notified the NRC Operations Center of the incident at 11:11 a.m. EST on November 4, 2004. This information is current as of 2 p.m. EST on November 4, 2004.

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