

Date: February 1, 1993

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PN39302B

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:	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
Cleveland Electric	<input type="checkbox"/> General Emergency
Illuminating Co.	<input type="checkbox"/> Site Area Emergency
Perry Nuclear Power Station	<input type="checkbox"/> Alert
Perry, Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/> Unusual Event
Docket No. 50-440	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A

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Subject: SHUTDOWN TO REPLACE LEAKING FUEL BUNDLE (UPDATE)

As of February 1, 1993, the licensee has tested all fuel assemblies for possible fuel rod leaks. The plant was shut down on January 9, 1993, for the leak testing and other maintenance activities, including testing of Main Steam Isolation Valves.

One fuel assembly has been confirmed as containing one leaking rod; visual examination of that rod shows a crack of about 25 inches in length. An additional nine fuel assemblies have been identified as having potential leaks. The licensee replaced the known leaking fuel rod in the one assembly and returned it to the reactor core.

The nine potentially leaking fuel assemblies were placed in the spent fuel storage pool for further testing and evaluation and nine partially spent fuel assemblies from the spent fuel storage pool were returned to the core in their place. To date the licensee has been unable to determine if the potentially leaking fuel assemblies contain leaking fuel rods or if there is surface contamination on the rods affecting the test results. The fuel manufacturer, General Electric, has been assisting with the testing and evaluation.

All of the fuel assemblies with confirmed or potential leakage are from the same manufacturing lot. There were 271 fuel assemblies of this lot in the reactor core.


A Region III (Chicago) inspection specialist will be at the site later this week to evaluate the licensee's testing and corrective actions.

The State of Ohio will be informed of this updated information. The Office of the Governor has expressed interest in the fuel leakage problem and will be kept informed of the testing program findings. The information in this updated preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

There has been area news media interest in the outage and testing of fuel for leakage.

This information is current as of 1:00 p.m., February 1, 1993.

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