

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 staff on this date.

Facility: Detroit Edison Company  
Fermi 2 Nuclear Plant  
Newport, MI 48166

Docket No: 50-341

Licensee Emergency Classification:  
Notification of an Unusual Event  
Alert  
Site Area Emergency  
General Emergency  
XX Not Applicable

Subject: REACTOR TRIP DUE TO LOW FEEDWATER LEVEL

At 10:03 p.m. (CDT), July 9, 1985, while at about 5 per cent power, the reactor tripped on low water level. At the time of the trip, the licensee was performing individual rod scram time testing and was maintaining reactor pressure by manually controlling the turbine bypass valves. The reactor feedwater system was in the startup level control with the reactor feedwater pump (RFP) in manual control. As the pressure was decreasing due to individual rod scrambling, the licensee closed down the bypass valves to maintain pressure. The level control valve responded and opened 100 per cent in response to the actual reactor vessel water level, but was unable to control level since the discharge pressure on the RFP was less than reactor pressure.

As a result, the water level in the reactor slowly decreased, and went unnoticed by the control room operators, who were inattentive to the level indication. A reactor vessel level annunciator also was inoperable. By the time the operators noticed the low water level, they were unable to recover quickly enough to prevent the reactor trip. No Emergency Core Cooling System Injection occurred.

As of 10 a.m. (CDT), July 10, 1985, the reactor is critical and proceeding to rated temperature and pressure. Region III (Chicago) is following the licensee's course of action.

This Preliminary Notification is being issued to notify the Commission of this event in view of the Commission's meeting July 10, 1985, on a full-power license for Fermi 2.

The State of Michigan will be notified.

The resident inspector was first notified of this event at 11:30 a.m. (CDT), July 10, 1985. This information is current as of 11:15 a.m. (CDT), July 10, 1985.

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Rev. 07/06/84