

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-85-67

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:

GPU Nuclear Corporation  
Three Mile Island, Unit 1  
Docket No. 50-289

Licensee Emergency Classification:  
\_\_\_\_ Notification of Unusual Event  
\_\_\_\_ Alert  
\_\_\_\_ Site Area Emergency  
\_\_\_\_ General Emergency  
X Not Applicable

Subject: REACTOR PROTECTION SYSTEM BREAKER MALFUNCTION

On September 23, 1985 at 1:27 p.m. a malfunction of one of two reactor protection system AC breakers occurred resulting in a small electrical fire. Within a minute the operator de-energized the breaker from a feeder bus and the fire was extinguished using a manual extinguisher. No fire brigade or offsite assistance was required. A reactor trip signal was not generated because the other AC breaker remained closed. The plant was in a hot shutdown condition with safety rods withdrawn at the time of the event. The event occurred during weekly RPS surveillance testing in preparation for the pending restart. The under-voltage test was completed satisfactorily, however, when the breaker was reset for the shunt trip test, it only partially closed. Locally, technicians attempted to use the shunt trip to open the breaker, but the breaker did not move. The switch that the technician actuated apparently put a seal-in function to the shunt trip coil that is de-energized only when the breaker is fully open and the prolonged current through the shunt coil caused it to overheat. Based on visual inspection apparently only the shunt coil was damaged. Additional inspection and testing is being conducted. A spare breaker has been installed and is under going surveillance testing. The TMI-1 restart staff is following the licensee's corrective actions.

CONTACT: R. Conte      W. Kane  
          FTS 590-1156      590-1167

DISTRIBUTION:

H. St.	MNBB	Phillips	E/W	Willste	Mail:	ADM:DMB
Chairman Palladino	EDO	NRR	IE	NMSS		DOT:Trans only
Comm. Zech	PA		OIA	RES		
Comm. Bernthal	ELD		AEOD			
Comm. Roberts						
Comm. Asselstine						
ACRS	Air Rights		INPO-1:05			
SECY	SP		NSAC-1:04			
CA						
PDR						

Regional Offices \_\_\_\_\_

TMI Resident Section 1:08  
RI Resident Office 1:11

Licensee: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Reactor Licensees)