

DCS No: 50289850907
Date: September 9, 1985

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-85-66

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 Number 50-289

Licensee Emergency Classification:
☐ Notification of Unusual Event
☐ Alert
☐ Site Area Emergency
☐ General Emergency
☒ Not Applicable

Subject: FIRE IN CONTROL ROD DRIVE POWER DISTRIBUTION PANELS

On Saturday, September 7, 1985, shortly before 4:00 p.m., the licensee conducted control rod drive surveillance testing. During the transfer of Regulating Bank No. 5 (8 banks or groups of control rods exist) to the auxiliary power supply, lights on the rod control panel brightened and blinked, indicating that an additional group (No. 6) also was affected; and, shortly thereafter, a fire alarm annunciated in the control room. The fire location was the relay room, which contains the control rod drive (CRD) power distribution panels along with integrated control system/nonnuclear instrumentation (ICS/NNI) panels. Simultaneously, a security guard was in the area and the individual reported to the control room of arcing and smoke emitting from the CRD panels. Operators initiated a manual reactor trip to deenergize the system (3:58 p.m.). The trip opened two AC breakers which fed four DC breakers which also opened. The fire brigade responded and only needed to expend one CO2 extinguisher. The licensee needed no offsite fire assistance, and the fire was out within seven minutes. Temperature in the room did not get high enough to activate the cardox system. Extensive damage occurred to several transfer switches (relays) and wiring in the CRD panels; however, the ICS/NNI panels were unaffected. It appears there was an equipment malfunction that caused DC power supplies to parallel out of phase.

The licensee is in the process of repairs and troubleshooting to determine the cause of the event, and to determine the extent of secondary effects, if any. Testing on repaired equipment is expected to occur tomorrow (Tuesday).

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Licensee:
(Reactor Licensees)

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