

April 24, 2003

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-03-021

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

D. C. Cook 1 and 2
American Electric Power
Bridgman MI
Docket: 50-315, 50-316
License: DPR-58, DPR-74

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: DUAL UNIT SHUTDOWN RESULTING FROM FISH INTRUSION

DESCRIPTION:

At 3:27 a.m. EDT on April 24, 2003, the plant experienced an influx of fish onto the intake traveling screens in the intake structure for the circulating water system and the emergency service water system. The fish intrusion damaged a portion of the screens, reducing flow. The fish involved were alewives, a small fish that is the dominant species in Lake Michigan.

Because of degrading conditions in the circulating water and emergency service water systems, plant operators manually tripped both reactors. Following the manual trips, operators observed that the water flow in the emergency service water system was severely reduced, and they declared all four emergency diesel generators inoperable because of the inadequate flow for equipment cooling. The diesel generators were not in operation nor were they needed.

The licensee declared an alert under its emergency plan at 3:48 a.m. EDT because of the deteriorating conditions and notified appropriate offsite agencies. The NRC entered monitoring mode and Region III (Chicago) staffed its incident response center. The NRC resident inspectors responded to the plant site to monitor the licensee's activities. Region III will conduct a special inspection to review the circumstances surrounding the event and the licensee's response.

Plant operators restored near normal flow in the emergency service water system by back flushing the protective screens which had become partially clogged by debris. The diesel generators were available, but still considered inoperable. The licensee is assessing the damage to the traveling screens and the debris intrusion into the emergency service water system.

The licensee issued a news release. The State of Michigan has been notified. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

The licensee notified the NRC Operations Center of this event at 4:40 a.m. EDT on April 24, 2003. This information is current as of 11 a.m. EDT on April 24, 2003.

CONTACTS:

Laura Kozak
(630) 829-9604

Eric Duncan
(630) 829-9628