

December 21, 2005

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-RIII-05-017

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

Byron 1 and 2
Exelon Generation Co.
Byron, Illinois
Docket: 50-454 and 50-455
License: NPF-37; NPF-66

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL GUNSHOT INJURY TO A SITE EMPLOYEE

DESCRIPTION:

On December 19, 2005, the licensee informed the resident inspectors and Region III (Chicago) that a plant employee had sustained a possible gunshot injury while walking in the Owner-Controlled Area (OCA).

The licensee related that the person was walking from the Main Access Facility toward the Pre-Access Facility at approximately 2:45pm and heard what the employee defined as a "pop" and felt something strike his lower leg. An examination of his calf showed a puncture type wound and bleeding. Emergency personnel were dispatched to the site and the person was transported to a local hospital where x-rays indicated an object similar/consistent with the shape of a flattened bullet.

The licensee immediately initiated a heightened level of awareness and requested that Ogle County Sheriff's Department assist in a sweep of the OCA. The Ogle County Sheriff's Department also interviewed local residents to determine if any unusual activities were occurring at the time of the injury. Both activities met with negative results. The licensee also conducted an inventory of all on-site weapons and ammunition. No discrepancies were noted.

The licensee stated that Byron Station security officers were conducting qualification firing at a near-site range at the time of the injury. The range officials were informed of the incident and advised to immediately cease all qualification firing. The range officials were questioned about course of fire and preliminary responses indicated they did not believe any bullets had been fired over the range's protective berm. However, they could not rule out the possibility of a ricochet because of the frozen ground and firing angles for the course of fire.

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The Ogle County Sheriff's Department has assumed responsibility for the investigation and preliminary interviews have determined the possible gunshot injury was not caused by a person hunting in the area. The rifles being used at the firing range were quarantined and testing and analysis is pending.

The licensee issued a press release on December 20, 2005. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management and is current as of 10:00am. on December 21, 2005.