

July 22, 2010

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-III-10-012A

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.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
LaSalle Units 1 and 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Notification of Unusual Event
Exelon Generation Co.	<input type="checkbox"/> Alert
Marseilles, IL	<input type="checkbox"/> Site Area Emergency
Docket: 50-373 and 50-374	<input type="checkbox"/> General Emergency
License: NPF-11; NPF-18	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable

SUBJECT: UPDATE - LEAKAGE OF TRITIUM FROM ONSITE STORAGE TANK

DESCRIPTION:

On July 1, 2010, Exelon's LaSalle Station informed Region III (Chicago) and the State of Illinois of elevated tritium levels onsite in a berm around the plant's two condensate storage (CY) tanks. Upon inspection, the licensee identified several degraded areas at the base of the Unit 1 CY tank, including three small (less than one-inch each) diameter holes on the bottom of the tank. The tank has been repaired and was returned to service on July 21, 2010.

Concentrations of tritium (the radioactive isotope of hydrogen), measured in water from a monitoring well located inside the berm that surrounds the CY tanks, initially were approximately 700,000 picocuries per liter (pCi/L). Following isolation of the leak and repairs to the tank, the measured concentrations of tritium decreased to 163,000 pCi/L as of July 21, 2010.

Other onsite monitoring wells near the CY tank have been sampled daily by the licensee since that leak was identified and have not shown detectable levels of tritium or other radioactivity. There is no indication that tritiated water has left the station property.

Water that was collected from the CY tank berm was transferred into temporary storage containers for future processing. The licensee plans to continue sampling various onsite monitoring points near the CY tank as part of its routine groundwater monitoring program.

There are no indications of leakage from the Unit 2 CY tank at this time. The Unit 2 tank is located adjacent to the Unit 1 tank within the same berm.

The NRC resident inspectors and specialists in the NRC's Region III office in Lisle, Illinois closely followed the situation. Agency resident inspectors, who are stationed at the plant, reviewed the impact of the leak and the utility's repair activities.

The licensee issued News Releases on July 1 and July 22, 2010, regarding the tank leak. The information in this updated preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management and is current as of 3:00 p.m. CDT on July 22, 2010.

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