

April 13, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-00-012

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 Region III staff (Lisle, Illinois) on this date.

Facility	Licensee Emergency Classification
American Electric Power	Notification of Unusual Event
Cook 1 2	Alert
Bridgman, Michigan	Site Area Emergency
Dockets: 50-315,50-316	General Emergency
	X Not Applicable

Subject: NRC RESTART INSPECTIONS RESCHEDULED FOR D.C. COOK UNIT 2

Region III (Chicago) has revised its schedule for two inspections which will assess the readiness of D. C. Cook Unit 2 to restart. The inspections were rescheduled at the request of the licensee. The licensee began refueling Unit 2 on April 10 and continues the work necessary for Unit 2 restart. The readiness inspections have been part of the NRC inspection plans for the D. C. Cook restart since 1998 and were most recently scheduled to begin April 3 and April 10, 2000.

The two principal inspections which will assess the unit's preparations for restart are now scheduled to begin May 8, 2000. This schedule is consistent with the licensee's current plan for completing restart preparations. The Restart Readiness Assessment Team Inspection, which will be conducted by a 10- person team, is scheduled to last two weeks. The second inspection, which will review any maintenance and modification work which has been deferred until after restart, will last a week.

Following the completion of the inspections and other NRC assessments, the NRC staff will advise the licensee of its view of the readiness of Unit 2 for restart.

D. C. Cook has been shut down since September 1997 when an NRC design and engineering inspection identified significant engineering issues with safety- related plant systems. Unit 2 is the lead unit for restart. The licensee is replacing the steam generators in Unit 1, and that unit is expected to restart several months after Unit 2.

The NRC staff has been meeting periodically with the licensee to discuss the status of the licensee's preparations for restart. The most recent meeting, which was open to public observation, was March 23, 2000. Another meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2000, at the D. C. Cook site.

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There has been considerable news media interest in the startup activities and schedule, particularly among the trade and financial press. One publication erroneously reported that the restart of Unit 2 was delayed because of NRC requirements for additional inspections.

The State of Michigan has been informed of the inspection schedule change.

This information is current as of 10 a.m. CDT on April 13, 2000.

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