

April 19, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-00-014

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
Commonwealth Edison Co.	Notification of Unusual Event
Braidwood 2	Alert
Braceville, Illinois	Site Area Emergency
Dockets: 50-457	General Emergency
	X Not Applicable

Subject: Reactor Trip of Braidwood Unit 2

On April 15, 2000, at 5:14 p.m. (CDT), the Braidwood Unit 2 reactor shut down automatically due to a dropped control rod. Operators later identified a blown fuse on the rod gripper as the cause of the dropped control rod. The motor-driven and diesel-driven auxiliary feedwater pumps actuated on low steam generator levels and maintained the water level in the steam generator until operators restored the primary feedwater system.

At 4:20 a.m. (CDT) on April 16, 2000, as preparations for restarting the unit were underway, operators manually shut the reactor down to comply with a technical specification that requires shut down when there is a difference in one rod position indication and the rod position demand. An encoder card was determined to be the cause of the difference. The licensee also identified 3 of 4 feedwater check valves with degraded bonnet seals. The licensee will repair these before returning the unit to power. Resident inspectors responded to the site to assess plant conditions.

The State of Illinois has been notified. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

The licensee notified the NRC Operations Center of these events at 6:22 p.m. (CDT) on April 15, 2000. This information is current as of 2 p.m. (CDT) April 18, 2000.

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