

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

August 30, 2000

PNO-RIII-00033

LICENSEE: Commonwealth Edison

EVENT NUMBER: NA

FACILITY: Braidwood 1,2
Byron 1,2
Dresden 2,3
LaSalle 1,2
Quad Cities 1,2

EVENT DATE: August 30, 2000

UNIT: Above

REGION: R-3

Rx INFO: Braidwood - PWR/Byron - PWR
LaSalle - BWR/Quad Cities - BWR
Dresden - BWR

LOCATION CODE: POW

DOCKETS: Braidwood (1) 50-456, (2) 50-457 - Byron (1) 50-454, (2) 50-455
Dresden (2) 50-237, (3) 50-249 - LaSalle (1) 50-373, (2) 50-374
Quad Cities (1) 50-254, (2) 50-265

CITY: Multiple

STATE: Illinois

EMERGENCY CLASS: NA

SUBJECT: REACTOR OPERATORS RELIEVED OF DUTIES FOR UNION-RELATED
ACTIVITIES

CONTACT: Mark Ring 630/829-9703 Michael Jordan 630/829-9637

DESCRIPTION:

On August 29, 2000, five licensed reactor operators on the day shift at Braidwood were relieved of their duties for unauthorized demonstrations (refusing to remove temporary union-related tattoos) while in the control rooms. The operators were replaced by management personnel with active operator licenses.

- 2-

The operators on the evening shift reported for duty with no tattoos. However, three reactor operators on the night shift wore tattoos and were relieved of their duties with the evening shift operators remaining on duty for a second shift. One reactor operator on the August 30 day shift was replaced by a manager with an active operator license after displaying a tattoo.

Similar incidents involving licensed operators occurred on August 28 at Dresden and Quad Cities and on August 29 at LaSalle. On August 25 four instrument mechanics at Dresden were sent home for wearing the tattoos during work in the control room there.

The licensee is maintaining sufficient management personnel with current operator licenses at each site to provide control room staffing if needed.

The operators' actions were in support of ongoing negotiations between Commonwealth Edison and Local 15 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the union which represents utility employees, on proposed changes in the utility's pension program.

The utility permits reactor operators to wear union insignia as part of their uniform, but prohibits demonstrations in the control room such as wearing bandanas and temporary tattoos.

The NRC resident inspectors at each site are monitoring control room staffing and activities. There has been no evidence that the incidents have been detrimental to safety. Region III (Chicago) officials have discussed the situation with licensee management to assure that regulatory requirements continue to be met.

There has been local news media interest in the incidents.

The State of Illinois has resident engineers at each site and is aware of the incidents. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

This information is current as of 8 a.m. on August 30, 2000.