

December 18, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-00-045

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

D.C. Cook Unit 1
American Electric Power
Bridgman, Michigan
Docket: 50-315, 50-316
License: DPR-58, DPR-74

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: D.C. COOK UNIT 1 STARTUP AFTER 39-MONTH OUTAGE

DESCRIPTION:

At 5 a.m. EST on December 18, 2000, the Unit 1 reactor achieved criticality as it was started up from an outage that began in September 1997. NRC inspectors were in the control room monitoring plant activities during the approach to criticality on December 18.

The two D.C. Cook units had been shut down since September 1997 when an NRC design and engineering inspection identified significant engineering issues with safety-related plant systems. Unit 2 restarted on June 22, 2000 and has operated continuously since that time.

On December 12, 2000, the NRC Region III Regional Administrator informed American Electric Power Company that, based on extensive NRC inspections over the last several years and recently completed restart inspections, the staff had concluded that the utility's performance improvement initiatives have been sufficiently effective to support restart of Unit 1.

NRC Region III maintained continuous inspection coverage of plant operations during the reactor restart evolution. The utility intends to gradually increase power level with testing activities scheduled at specified hold points. NRC Region III will monitor these activities.

The State of Michigan will be informed of the plant startup. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with utility management. Region III was informed of the reactor startup by a resident inspector on December 18, 2000. This information is current as of 10 a.m. CST on December 18, 2000.

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