

April 9, 2001

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -
PNO-III-01-012

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 the Region III staff on this date.

Facility

Byron 2
Exelon Generation Co., LLC
Byron, Illinois
Docket: 50-455
License:

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: FOUR WORKERS AT BYRON WERE ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL DUE TO
DECREASED OXYGEN IN CONDENSER WORK SPACE

DESCRIPTION:

On April 9, 2001, at 3:04 a.m. central time, 13 contract employees working in the Unit 2 main condenser left their work site after an oxygen monitor on one of the employees indicated an apparent decrease in oxygen. The workers, some of whom complained of respiratory distress, exited the condenser and received medical evaluations. There was no radioactive contamination involved. Unit 2 currently is in a refueling outage and was shut down at the time of the incident.

Seven of the 13 workers were transported by ambulance to Rockford Memorial Hospital in Rockford, Illinois, for treatment. The remaining six workers were evaluated by onsite medical staff and released. As of 8:30 a.m. central time, four of the workers transported to the hospital had been admitted for further observation. The remaining three workers were released.

The licensee has initiated an investigation into the cause. The licensee and the Byron Fire Protection District, which dispatched the initial ambulances, have issued separate news releases. There has been media interest in the Rockford, Illinois, area.

The State of Illinois will be notified. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management. This preliminary notification was issued because of local media attention.

The NRC Operations Center was notified of this event at 5:48 a.m. central time on April 9, 2001. This information is current as of 9:45 a.m. central time on April 9, 2001.

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