

August 30, 2001

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-01-030

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.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
D.C. Cook Unit 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Notification of Unusual Event
American Electric Power Co.	<input type="checkbox"/> Alert
Buchanan, Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/> Site Area Emergency
Docket: 50-316	<input type="checkbox"/> General Emergency
License: DPR-74	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable

SUBJECT: SHUTDOWN TO INVESTIGATE LOW ESSENTIAL SERVICE WATER FLOW

DESCRIPTION:

On August 30, 2001, the licensee shut down Unit 2 to investigate abnormally low essential service water flow to Unit 1 and Unit 2 diesel generators.

Unit 1 was previously shut down August 27, 2001, to perform maintenance on a valve in the circulating water system.

Unit 2's two diesel generators initially were declared inoperable after the licensee performed an Essential Service Water (ESW) surveillance test on the unit about 11 p.m. EDT on August 29, 2001. During that test, the licensee discovered that the ESW flow to the diesel generators was abnormally low which could prevent the diesel generators from fulfilling their safety function.

Upon investigation, the cause of the low flow was determined to be sand and sediment in the ESW system which could potentially affect both Unit 1 and Unit 2 diesel generators.

The licensee performed system flushes and valve cycling which eliminated the low flow condition on both Unit 2 diesel generators. System flushes were also performed on the Unit 1 diesel generators with similar results.

About 2:15 a.m. EDT on August 30, 2001, Unit 2's west component cooling water heat exchanger, which is cooled by the ESW system, also showed a low flow indication. With low flow measured at different locations in the ESW system, the licensee decided to shut the unit down to investigate the cause of the low flow indications.

The licensee believed that sand redistribution in the intake system led to the sand and sediment to be drawn in by the plant water intake pipes.

Region III is preparing to conduct a Special Inspection to assess plant and licensee performance.

