

June 25, 2002

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-02-029

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 Nuclear Generation Co.
Byron, IL
Docket: 050-00455

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: SHUTDOWN TO INVESTIGATE AND REPAIR STEAM GENERATOR TUBE LEAK

DESCRIPTION:

On June 22, 2002, the utility shut Unit 2 down to investigate and repair a tube leak in the 2C steam generator.

In July 2001, plant staff identified a small primary to secondary leak in the steam generator and has been monitoring it since that time. During the past year the leak rate has varied, but had not exceeded 60 gallons per day (gpd). On June 20, 2002, the leak rate increased to 85 gpd. The Technical Specification limit, required plant shutdown, is 150 gpd however, industry guidance recommends shutting down at 75 gpd. As a result of the increased leakage and in accordance with current industry guidelines, the utility elected to shut the unit down.

NRC resident inspectors were at the plant to monitor the reactor shut down. The resident inspectors, assisted by region-based personnel, will follow the utility's investigation and repair efforts.

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

This information is current as of 3 p.m. on June 24, 2002.

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