September 13, 2005

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-05-013

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	**Licensee Emergency Classification**
Braidwood Station	___Notification of Unusual Event
Exelon Nuclear	___Alert
Exelon Generation Company, LLC	___Site Area Emergency
Braceville, IL	___General Emergency
Docket: 50-456	_X_ Not Applicable
License: NPF-72	

SUBJECT: FORCED OUTAGE DUE TO REACTOR COOLANT PUMP LEAK-OFF IN EXCESS OF VENDOR RECOMMENDATIONS.

DESCRIPTION:

On Saturday, September 10, 2005, the Braidwood operators were monitoring an ongoing higher than normal leak-off flow from the 1A reactor coolant pump (RCP) seal when the flow rate exceeded the vendors' recommended limit of 6.0 gallons per minute (g.p.m.). The licensee initiated a shutdown of the unit and the operators began ramping the unit down at 6:08 p.m. EDT on Saturday. The ramp down was suspended at 82% power and again at 68% power because the leak-off flow rate returned to an acceptable value. However, the reduced seal leak-off rate could not be maintained. Therefore, the unit was taken off-line at 10:42 p.m. EDT on Sunday, September 11, 2005. The affected RCP was secured at 11:33 p.m. EDT. The maximum seal leak-off flow experienced was 6.25 g.p.m. The unit is expected to be off-line for approximately five days. Major work will be the 1A RCP seal package replacement.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only and no further action by the staff is anticipated.

Region III received initial notification of this occurrence by phone from on shift management at 5:08 p.m. on Saturday, September 10. The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee, and is current as of 4:00 p.m. EDT, September 12.

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