PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION- REGION III

March 14, 2012

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-12-003

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
Byron Unit 1	___ Notification of Unusual Event
Exelon Generation Company, LLC	___ Alert
4450 N. German Church Road	___ Site Area Emergency
Byron, IL	___ General Emergency
Dockets: 50-454	_X_ Not Applicable
License: NPF-37	

SUBJECT: BYRON STATION UNIT 1 UNPLANNED SHUTDOWN FOR GREATER THAN 72 HOURS

DESCRIPTION:

On March 11, 2012, at approximately 12:20 p.m. CDT, Byron Station Unit 1 was shut down due to the identification of a leaking valve inside containment. The purpose of this valve is to isolate the pressure equalization line for the reactor coolant system loop stop valves. The valve is only used when the steam generator undergoes maintenance during a refueling outage. The licensee identified the leaking valve when Unit 1 power was reduced to perform a planned replacement of the electrical insulators at the site. This valve is not associated with the ongoing electrical insulator replacement activities.

The plant is currently in a stable shutdown condition. The licensee plans to replace the valve before returning the reactor to power operation. NRC Resident Inspectors observed the power reduction and reactor cooldown, and continue to monitor the repair activities and assess plant conditions.

The State of Illinois has been informed of the plant shutdown.

RIII received initial notification of this occurrence through the resident inspectors. The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee, and is current as of March 14, 2012, at 12:30 p.m. (CDT).

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

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