

Date: September 23, 1994

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-94-76

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

Commonwealth Edison Co.
Dresden 2
Morris, Illinois

Licensee Emergency Classification

General Emergency
Site Area Emergency
Alert
Unusual Event
X Not Applicable

Docket No. 50-237

Subject: AUTOMATIC ECCS INITIATION INOPERABLE, REACTOR IN COLD SHUTDOWN

On September 22, 1994, the licensee discovered the mid-range water level instrumentation for the Unit 1 reactor was isolated (valved out) for both parallel loops. Reactor water level was being monitored by the wide-range level instrumentation. In this configuration, the Emergency Core Cooling System would not initiate automatically on a low reactor water signal. The ECCS could have been initiated manually from the control room. The unit was in cold shutdown at the time. Under the plant's Technical Specifications, the ECCS system was not required to be operable with the unit in cold shutdown.

Plant personnel had removed one loop from service for modifications, and then isolated the second loop for similar modifications before the first loop had been restored to service. The simultaneous isolation of both loops was discovered after about 4 hours, and one of the loops was restored to service about 3½ hours later.

Senior licensee management has discussed this event with NRC management. The NRC resident inspectors are reviewing the licensee's corrective actions.

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

The licensee notified the NRC Operations Center of this event at 9:40 p.m. on September 22, 1994. This information is current as of 12 noon on September 23, 1994.

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