

May 16, 1996

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-96-030

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 Region III staff (Lisle, Illinois) on this date.

Facility
Commonwealth Edison Co.
Dresden 3
Morris, Illinois
Dockets: 50-249

Licensee Emergency Classification
X Notification of Unusual Event
Alert
Site Area Emergency
General Emergency
Not Applicable

Subject: AUGMENTED INSPECTION TEAM TO REVIEW UNIT 3 REACTOR SCRAM

At 10:43 a.m. (CDT) on May 15, 1996, the Unit 3 reactor scrammed (shut down automatically) as a result of the loss of water flow into the reactor from the normal feedwater system. All safety systems functioned normally, and water was supplied to the reactor using the High Pressure Coolant Injection system. The reactor scram was initiated because of low water level in the reactor. Following the reactor scram, one Main Steam Isolation Valve reopened when the reactor isolation signal was reset. The valve was subsequently closed by reactor operators.

The licensee is investigating the cause of the loss of feedwater flow to the reactor. The licensee's preliminary review indicates that a feedwater regulator valve failed. A parallel feedwater regulator valve had been previously taken out of service because of a leak in the valve.

NRC Region III (Chicago) will dispatch an Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) to the plant site to evaluate the circumstances surrounding the feedwater valve failure and the reactor shutdown. The NRC resident inspectors were onsite at the time of the event and monitored the licensee's response. The licensee declared an Unusual Event under its emergency plan. The Unusual Event classification was terminated at 11:08 p.m. after the reactor was in cold shutdown.

The State of Illinois has been notified.

Region III will issue a news announcement on the formation of the Augmented Inspection Team.

The licensee notified the NRC Operations Center of this event at 11:37 a.m. (CDT) on May 15, 1996. This information is current as of 9 a.m. on May 16, 1996.

Contact: JAY HOPKINS
(708)829-9635

PAT HILAND
(708)829-9603

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PDR I&E
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