

May 24, 1996

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-96-032

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  
(UPDATE)

On May 16, 1996, an Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) was formed to review the circumstances surrounding the May 15 Unit 3 reactor scram which was caused by the failure of a feedwater regulating valve. On May 23 the AIT held an exit meeting with the licensee, which was open to public observation.

The AIT concluded that the feedwater regulating valve failure occurred when the valve stem separated from the valve internals, cutting off the flow of feedwater to the reactor. The second feedwater regulating valve was closed about two weeks earlier because of a leak.

Plant safety systems functioned normally during the scram, and reactor operators performed in accordance with their procedures. The High Pressure Coolant Injection (HPCI) system actuated to restore the reactor water level to normal. When the containment isolation signals were reset following recovery of reactor water level, two isolation valves reopened instead of remaining closed. These malfunctions were caused by relay failures resulting from mechanical binding in the relays. This issue is being reviewed for possible generic implications.

The licensee's backlog of corrective maintenance contributed to the event. The feedwater regulating valve which had been closed on April 28 had been leaking since October 1995. Sealant was injected six times into the valve to reduce the leakage, but repairs were not made because parts were not available.

The valve which failed is the only one of four feedwater regulating valves (two for each Dresden unit) which had not completed the modifications to improve performance and to reduce the potential for failure. The modification was planned for September 1996.

Unit 3 remains shut down for resolution of unrelated issues involving loads on structural steel in one area of the plant.

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The State of Illinois will be informed of this updated information.

The licensee was informed of the AIT findings in an exit meeting beginning at on May 23, 1996. This information is current as of 8 a.m. on

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