

June 3, 1996

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-96-035

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 2
Morris, Illinois
Dockets: 50-237

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

Subject: MANUAL REACTOR SCRAM FOLLOWING UNEXPECTED RACTOR WATER LEVEL DECREASE.

At 8:38 p.m. (CDT) on May 31, 1996, reactor operators initiated a manual reactor scram when water level began decreasing in the reactor vessel. (A reactor scram is a prompt inserting of control rods to shut the reactor down.)

Engineering personnel were working on the reactor feedwater level control system at the time of the incident, but the cause of the level decrease has not been determined. When the reactor water level began to decrease, a reactor operator took manual control of the feedwater pumps but was unable to stop the downward trend.

Reactor water level had decreased 12 inches when the manual scram was performed. The lowest level reached was 42 inches below normal, which was still about 11 feet above the top of the reactor core.

Water level was restored and maintained with manual control of the startup feedwater regulator valve. None of the emergency core cooling systems were needed during the shutdown, although all were available.

The licensee is currently troubleshooting the feedwater control system to identify the cause of the water level decrease.

A Region III (Chicago) reactor engineer was in the control room at the time of the shutdown. The resident inspectors are monitoring the licensee's evaluation of the feedwater problem.

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

The licensee reported the manual scram to the NRC Operations Center at 9:09 p.m. (CDT) on May 31, 1996. This information is current as of 9 a.m. on June 3, 1996.

Contact: JAY HOPKINS

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