

April 11, 1997

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-97-032

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 2 3
Morris, Illinois
Dockets: 50-237, 50-249

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

Subject: OUTAGE DUE TO INOPERABLE MERLIN-GERIN BREAKERS

On April 10, 1997, the licensee shut down Unit 2 after declaring all the Merlin-Gerin 4 kV breakers to be inoperable. The breaker deficiencies are the same ones that prompted the Quad Cities Unit 1 shutdown on April 9, 1997. See PNO-III-97-39031. The licensee shut down Dresden Unit 2 after inspecting busses 23 to 23-1 tie breaker and finding the auxiliary switchpack broken completely free from its mounting plate. This breaker is required to open for an emergency diesel generator to properly pick-up the busse 23-1 loads.

The auxiliary switchpack was only supported by its operating rod and the attached wires. Since October 1996 an action request had identified an improperly indicating local indicator on the breaker. Visual and boroscope inspections of some of the other similar breakers in the plant have only identified minor cracking. Technical Specifications required the plant shutdown as a result of the breaker deficiencies. Unit 3 is shutdown for a refueling outage.

NRC resident inspectors observed the reactor shutdown activities. The NRC vendor inspection branch is following-up on the breaker deficiencies.

The State of Illinois has been notified. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with the licensee management. The licensee notified the NRC Operations Center at 12:20 a.m. (EDT) on April 11, 1997. This information is current as of 10:30 a.m. on April 11, 1997.

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