

AmB

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 and 3
Morris, IL 60450

Licensee Emergency Classification:
Unusual Event
 Alert (UNIT 2)
 Site Area Emergency
 General Emergency
 Not Applicable (UNIT 3)

E/I

Docket No. 50-237;
Docket No. 50-249

Subject: UNIT 3 SCRAM AFTER PARTIAL LOSS OF OFF-SITE POWER

At 1:33 a.m. (CST) on March 25, 1989, the Unit 3 reserve auxiliary transformer tripped as a result of a fault (electrical short) in a circuit breaker in the switchyard. Electrical loads transferred automatically from the affected transformer to the unit auxiliary transformer.

During the transfer of electrical loads, one of two feedwater pumps tripped. The standby feedwater pump started automatically, but during the transfer of pumps the water level fluctuated in the reactor, causing a turbine trip on high reactor water level with a subsequent reactor scram.

With the loss of the main generator, the two emergency diesel generators started automatically and began supplying power to the essential busses. The transfer occurred as expected with the exception of a circuit breaker problem in the Low Pressure Coolant Injection (LPCI) system. (LPCI was not needed during the event, because the reactor remained in hot standby until offsite power was restored.)

Reactor water level was controlled using a High Pressure Coolant Injection (HPCI) system. The isolation condenser was used for reactor cooling and pressure control.

The isolation condenser initially used clean demineralized water for makeup, but shifted to contaminated water from the condensate storage tank when the demineralized water supply was exhausted.

Use of contaminated water in the isolation condenser resulted in a release of radioactivity and very low level contamination within the protected area and in an adjacent parking lot. Several vehicles were also contaminated. The licensee estimated that about 10 to 20 millicuries of mixed activation products (principally cobalt-60) was released during the operation of the isolation condenser. No NRC release limits were exceeded.

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Recognizing that the shift to contaminated makeup water for the isolation condenser would occur, the licensee took precautions to prevent personnel contamination, to monitor the release, and to survey contaminated areas. Decontamination work is continuing.

During the Unit 3 event, a fuse on a Unit 2 annunciator panel blew, causing the loss of power to the Emergency Core Cooling System panel in the control room. The licensee declared an alert under its emergency plan; the alert classification was terminated after about 5 minutes when power was restored to the annunciators. The licensee is investigating the cause of the blown fuse and its relationship to the Unit 3 event.

At 8:55 a.m., the licensee restored offsite power and began taking the unit to cold shutdown.

The Dresden resident inspectors responded to the event. Two region-based radiation protection inspectors and an electrical inspector were dispatched to the site on March 25, 1989. The Braidwood senior resident inspector was sent to the site on March 27, 1989.

The resident inspectors and Region III (Chicago) are continuing to monitor the licensee's investigation of the event, repair activities, and ongoing decontamination efforts.

The Headquarters Operations Center was notified of this event at 4:12 a.m. (CST), on March 25, 1989. This information is current as of 10 a.m. on March 27, 1989.

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