

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

File

September 20, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE---PNO-79-425A

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff on this date.

Facility: Commonwealth Edison Company, Dresden Units 1, 2 and 3
(DN 50-10, DN 50-237 and DN 50-249) Morris, IL

Subject: APPARENT LEAK IN COOLING LAKE - UPDATE REPORT

Reference PNO-79-425 September 17, 1979.

On September 17 and 18, 1979, a Region III (Chicago) inspector visited the Dresden cooling lake and observed leakage of water and clay along the bank of the Kankakee River on private property. The leakage is along the bank 4 to 6 feet below ground surface.

The inspector met the local landowner, who had complained of high well water temperature, and discussed the cause of the leakage of the cooling lake. The licensee and RIII inspector collected water samples from the cooling lake and the landowner's well to determine any possible radioactivity contamination (none is expected). Since the landowner complained of drinking thermally hot water from his 15 foot deep well, the inspector measured the temperature of the well water to be 68°F.

The licensee has retained Harza Engineering Consulting Company to investigate the integrity of the dike. The firm plans to construct three observation wells within the next week and will take core samples to determine soil structure. The licensee will take corrective action based on the results of these tests. Region III will follow the results of this effort.

The State of Illinois and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have been informed.

No press release is planned by either the utility or the regional office at this time; however, the landowner has stated that he may request the assistance of a television investigative reporter.

Region III was informed of this problem by way of a telephone call from the Resident Inspector at 10:40 a.m. on September 17, 1979. This information is current as of 4:00 p.m., September 19, 1979.

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