

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

February 23, 1979

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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-79-31

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of event 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 Unit 3
(DN 50-249), Morris, IL

Subject: FIRE IN MAIN TRANSFORMER

Commonwealth Edison reported to RIII (Chicago) that on February 23, 1979, a fire occurred in the main transformer for Dresden Unit 3. The turbine and reactor tripped due to the transformer fault. Power for the unit transferred automatically to the station auxiliary transformer. The deluge system for the transformer tripped and came on automatically. All plant safety related systems operated as designed. This transformer was recently installed due to a similar occurrence on December 12, 1978 (Reference: PNO-78-208) and Unit 3 had been returned to service on February 16, 1979 following installation of the new transformer. The cause of this fault and the length of the outage are unknown at this time. The Morris and Coal City Fire Departments responded and the fire was out at 6:45 a.m., on February 23, 1979.

The licensee and NRC are considering issuing press releases.

The State of Illinois has been notified.

The resident inspector is onsite reviewing the cause and corrective actions.

RIII (Chicago) received notification of this matter by telephone from the licensee at 6:40 a.m., on February 23, 1979.

Contact: GKlingler, IE x28019 SEBryan, IE x28019

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