

TIC

July 28, 1977

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-77-131A

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of an 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, Zion Unit 2
(DN 50-304), Zion, IL

*Nussel
Turned off*

Subject: BYPASSING OF SAFETY SIGNALS

This supplements PNO-77-131.

A meeting was held with Commonwealth Edison Corporate personnel on July 26, 1977, to discuss a July 12 incident in which some safety system circuits were temporarily disabled during routine testing while the plant was in a hot shutdown condition.

The testing involved use of artificial signals in 31 safety circuits which are intended to detect abnormal conditions in part of the reactor cooling system. With the safety sensors disabled for the test, the plants emergency core cooling system would not have automatically responded to certain types of potential accidents. Other safety circuits were unaffected and would have protected against potential accidents involving large pipe breaks.

During this meeting, the seriousness of this event and the associated draining of the 5,300 gallons of primary coolant from the reactor coolant system were discussed. If the draining of primary coolant had continued for approximately 30 minutes longer, damage to the reactor coolant pump seals could have occurred. This could have resulted in a significant loss of primary coolant to the containment building.

The event appears to be a result of inadequate management attention and procedural controls. The licensee has instituted a program of corrective action to preclude repetition including revisions to procedures and administrative practice.

This PN is being issued because of high potential public interest expected upon an issuance of a planned press release by the NRC.

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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

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