

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

POOR ORIGINAL

Date: April 24, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-III-80-76

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 as of this date.

Facility: Commonwealth Edison Company
Zion Station, Unit 1
Docket No. 50-304
Zion, IL

Subject: UNPLANNED RADIOACTIVE GAS RELEASE

On April 24, 1980, an unplanned release of Xe-133 occurred through the auxiliary building stack. The stack radiation monitor indicated that 4.31 curies of Xe-133 was released over a period of 45 minutes. The peak instantaneous release rate was 4.5% of the Technical Specification limit.

The release occurred while adjusting the water level of the Refueling Water Storage Tank (RWST). Reactor coolant from the volume control tank (VCT) leaked through some closed valves and was pumped into the RWST. This water degassed in the RWST which is vented to a room in the auxiliary building. The gas subsequently passed from the room through the vent header and out the stack. The release was terminated by stopping the RWST makeup operation and returning all valve lineups to their original positions. The licensee is investigating the cause of the valve leakage.

The licensee plans to issue a press release. The State of Illinois is being notified.

The licensee initially reported this release to NRC at 11:23 a.m. on April 24, 1980. The Senior Resident Inspector and a health physics inspector were onsite at the time of the occurrence and have confirmed the information contained in this PN.

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