

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Date: 5/7/80

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-III- 80-85

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 IF staff as of this date.

UTILITY: Commonwealth Edison Company
Zion
Docket No. 50-295; 50-304

SUBJECT: UNPLANNED GASEOUS RELEASE

From about 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on May 6, 1980, radioactive gas was inadvertently released at a maximum rate of 520 microcuries per second, less than one percent of the technical specification limit. The release, consisting of 2.7 curies of Xe-133 and Kr-85, occurred when a liquid holdup tank being drained to an auxiliary building sump drained completely, allowing the radioactive cover gas to escape to the auxiliary building and then to the environs via the auxiliary building vent system. The complete draining of the liquid holdup tank, which resulted from a malfunctioning liquid level indicator, was discovered at 12:30 p.m., but the gaseous release was not discovered for about two additional hours.

The release was identified at about the same time by the licensee and a Region III (Chicago) inspector, who was reviewing the gaseous waste system.

Neither the licensee nor Region III plans to issue a press release.

Region III received notification of this event from a Radiation Specialist on site at 4:00 p.m., CDT, May 6, 1980. The NRC Operations Center received notification of this occurrence at 4:57 p.m., CDT on May 6, 1980.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS
POOR QUALITY PAGES

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PN-111-80-85

The State of Illinois and USEPA are being informed.

This information is current as of 9:00 a.m., CDT, May 7, 1980

Contact: D. E. Miller
Radiation Specialist

W. L. Fisher
Section Chief

A. B. Davis
Branch Chief

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