

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Date: May 13, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-TII- 80-91

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 Unit 2
Docket No. 304
Zion, IL

Subject: LOSS OF REFUELING CAVITY WATER TO THE CONTAINMENT

At 7:05 p.m. on May 12, 1980, a two inch diameter rubber hose (see attached sketch) separated from a fitting on the bonnet of valve "A" of line ZDT 031, allowing refueling cavity water (activity of 1.35×10^{-2} ~~cpm~~) to drain from the refueling cavity into the containment building. The hose had been incorrectly attached to valve "A" instead of valve "B" through personnel error. Maintenance workers in the area immediately stuffed rags into the fitting on the bonnet of valve "A" to restrict flow and five hours later (12:08 a.m. on 5/13/80) a diver plugged the four inch line from the refueling cavity, stopping the leakage. The licensee had declared a site alert when the leakage began. The licensee determined that a total leakage of 3,000 - 4,000 gallons occurred, although initially the amount of water lost was thought to be as high as 25,000 gallons.

Eight workers became contaminated with refueling cavity water. Whole body counting suggests persistent external cobalt-60 and cesium-137 contamination on two of the workers. The radioactivity on or in these two people does not exceed 11% of a maximum permissible body burden for these radionuclides. Further decontamination and whole body counting will occur as necessary.

The diver received a dose of about 90 millirems.

No measurable increase in containment activity and no offsite releases occurred. The leakage went to the containment building sump where it was pumped to rad-waste.

The reactor had been shutdown for refueling since May 2, 1980. The reactor head was removed, and the refueling cavity water level was at the 615 feet elevation (see attached sketch). No fuel movements had begun and no spent fuel was in the refueling cavity. The upper reactor internals had been removed and are stored in the refueling cavity. Primary containment integrity was not required by Technical Specifications and was not maintained during the time of the event.

The Headquarters Duty Officer was notified by the Red Phone at 7:20 p.m. The Region III IRC was activated at 8:00 p.m. and a response team was dispatched to the site at 8:45 p.m. arriving at 10:30 and remaining at the site until the leakage was stopped, the correct hose connections had been properly made and the plug removed from the four inch drain.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS
POOR QUALITY PAGES

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The Resident Inspector will followup as necessary.

The licensee did not make a press release, but has been responding to press inquiries. Region III made a press release, and is continuing to respond to press inquiries.

The State of Illinois and the USEPA have been notified.

This information is current as of 8:30 CST May 13, 1980.

Enclosure:
Sketch

Contact: W. S. Little, RIII, 384-2552; A. B. Davis, RIII, 384-2510;
R. W. ~~Reishman~~, RIII, 384-2540

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ATTACHMENT FIG III-80-91

