

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the Region III staff on this date.

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Facility: Commonwealth Edison Co.  
Braidwood Unit 1  
Braceville, IL 60407

Licensee Emergency  
Classification:  
Unusual Event  
X Alert  
Site Area Emergency  
General Emergency  
Not Applicable

*EL*

Docket No. 50-456

Subject: RHR RELIEF VALVE OPENS AND FAILS TO CLOSE----- (UPDATE)

On December 2, 1989, an Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) was established to investigate the circumstances surrounding the spurious opening of a relief valve in the 'B' train of the Residual Heat Removal (RHR) system and failure of the valve to close.

The licensee has replaced the relief valve, and the valve is being held on-site pending the arrival of a manufacturer's representative to evaluate the malfunction. Preliminary tests on the valve indicated it opened at a pressure of 411 pounds per square inch (PSI) instead of the required 450 psi. The investigation is continuing to determine why the valve lifted at the lower pressure and then failed to close.

Preliminary information indicates that during the incident about 68,000 gallons of water drained from the primary system through the open relief valve into a radwaste holding tank. (About 14,000 gallons drained from the pressurizer in 8 minutes; the remaining 54,000 gallons were added to the primary system from the RWST using two charging pumps to replace the water loss.) Reactor water level in the reactor vessel remained normal throughout the event.

About 30 to 50 gallons of water were released into the auxiliary building through a leaking valve on a radwaste line. Cleanup and decontamination has been completed.

The AIT includes the Senior Resident Inspector and personnel from Region III (Chicago), the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, and the Office of Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data.

The State of Illinois will be informed of this updated information.

There has been area news media interest.

This updated information is current as of 2 p.m., December 4, 1989.

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*licensee contacted*  
3:00 pm  
12/4/89

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PNO-III-89-006 PNU

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\*Denotes a Displaywriter/PC not an IBM 5520 Terminal.

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