

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Date: April 21, 1981

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Record Management
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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF SAFEGUARDS EVENT - PNS-III-81-07A

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
LaSalle Units 1 and 2
La Salle County, Illinois
Docket Nos. 50-373; 50-374

SUBJECT: SUSPECTED ARSON

At approximately 12:40 p.m. (CST) on April 21, 1981, a small fire was discovered in two High Pressure Core Spray (HPCS) control panels within a Unit 2 HPCS room. (There was a separate fire reported yesterday via PNS-III-81-07.) The fire was extinguished by a contractor employee with minimal damage. A representative of the Illinois State Fire Marshall's Office, who was onsite investigating yesterday's fire, discovered a plastic "Windex" bottle, that contained what appeared to be a flammable liquid with a rag wick. The fire apparently was started at the bottom of the cabinets (floor level) and was burning up towards the bottle when extinguished.

Although there were no personal injuries and radioactive material was not involved, the HPCS (safety related equipment) was damaged. The licensee and State Fire Marshall have expanded their investigation to include this incident as well as the incident mentioned in PNS-III-81-07. The plastic bottle that was recovered was turned over to the State Fire Marshall.

The licensee is considering making a press release; Region III (Chicago) does not plan to issue a press release. The FBI (Chicago) has been notified and the State of Illinois will be notified. The Chicago Office of the FBI intends to go to the site to look into the matter, although it is not known at this time if an investigation will be conducted. The IAT was notified at 2:15 p.m. (CST) on April 21, 1981.

The LaSalle facility is under construction. Unit 1 is approximately 99 percent complete and Unit 2 is approximately 86 percent complete. Fuel is stored onsite but was not affected by the fire.

Region III received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the Resident Inspector at approximately 1:00 p.m. (CST) on April 21, 1981. This



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PNS-III-81-07A

Page 2 of 2

Date: April 21, 1981

information is current as of 3:00 p.m. (CST) on April 21, 1981. This PN is issued for information only. The Resident Inspector will monitor the licensee's and State Fire Marshall's investigations.

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