

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: Quad Cities Unit 2 Licensee Emergency Classification
 Docket No. 50-265 General Emergency _____ Site Area Emergency _____
 Alert _____ Unusual Event _____ N/A X

Subject: REACTOR SCRAM DUE TO ROD MOVEMENT ERROR

At 3:59 p.m. (CDT) on October 27, 1990, the Unit 2 reactor scrammed from about 1 percent power as a result of high reactivity caused by the improper withdrawal of control rods. The reactor operator intended to place the reactor in Hot Standby Mode following a turbine test. The operator was closely monitoring reactor pressure as he inserted the control rods. Because reactor pressure dropped below the desired 800 pounds per square inch, the operator stopped inserting the control rods and began withdrawing rods, seeking to increase pressure. He failed to observe that the reactor was in a subcritical condition. As he withdrew the rods, which were located in the center of the core, a supercritical condition occurred with about a 20 second period, causing the scram.

The scram was the result of the error by the operator who failed to recognize that the reactor was subcritical. The Shift Control Room Engineer also failed to observe the subcritical condition. Licensee procedures would have required that the reactor operator stop control rod movements when the reactor was subcritical and then use normal startup procedures to approach criticality.

The licensee has provided additional training for the operating crew which was on duty at the time.

The resident inspectors have reviewed the event and were in the Control Room to monitor reactor startup when the plant returned to operation on October 29, 1990.

The State of Illinois will be notified. The information in this Preliminary Notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

The reactor scram was reported to the NRC Operations Center at 4:42 p.m. on October 27, 1990. This information is current as of 11:00 a.m., October 29, 1990.

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