

Date: May 9, 1994

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for DTPA*

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-94-36

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.

Facility

Commonwealth Edison Company
Dresden Unit 1
Morris, Illinois

Licensee Emergency Classification

General Emergency
Site Area Emergency
Alert
Unusual Event
X Not Applicable

DCP/DCB

Docket No. 50-010

Subject: LEAKAGE OF APPROXIMATELY 50,000 GALLONS OF WATER FROM A CONTAMINATED DEMINERALIZED WATER TANK

On May 8, 1994, at 8:35 a.m. (CDT), the licensee discovered evidence of an underground pipe leak near the Dresden Unit 1 radwaste building. The licensee determined that approximately 50,000 gallons of water had leaked from the contaminated demineralized water tank for Unit 1 due to a leak in underground piping. Twenty-eight hours earlier, after repairing a valve that was damaged by freezing during January 1994, the licensee had placed the piping system in service.

Radiological samples were taken by the licensee of the water near the break and directly from the tank. The highest level of contamination was in the puddles on the ground. Sample readings indicated radioactive concentrations of 2.1×10^{-7} microcuries per milliliter ($\mu\text{Ci/ml}$) of cobalt-60 (.0078 Becquerel per milliliter (Bq/ml)) and 8.9×10^{-7} $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$ of cesium-137 (.0329 Bq/ml). The NRC release limits of radioactivity to unrestricted areas for cesium-137 is 1×10^{-6} $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$ (0.037 Bq/ml) and for cobalt-60 is 3×10^{-6} $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$ (0.111 Bq/ml). The 50,000 gallons of water bubbled up through the ground and drained through the storm sewer system ultimately to the Kankakee River. Using the Dresden Offsite Dose Calculation Manual, this release of radioactively contaminated water would result in less than 1% of the NRC dose limit to any member of the public. This release does not represent a hazard to public health and welfare.

Region III (Chicago) dispatched a radiation safety inspector to the site on May 8, 1994 to review the licensee's actions.

The State of Illinois will be notified. Information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

The licensee is preparing a press release concerning this event.

Although the leakage is not required to be reported to the NRC, the licensee notified the NRC resident inspector on May 8, 1994. This information is current as of 1:00 p.m. (CDT) on May 9, 1994.

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PNO-III-94-036 PDR

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