

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 staff on this date.

Facility: Commonwealth Edison Company
Dresden Nuclear Power Station
Unit 3
Docket No. 50-249
Morris, IL

Licensee Emergency Classification:
xx Notification of Unusual Event
 Alert
 Site Area Emergency
 General Emergency
 Not Applicable

Subject: RECIRCULATION PUMP SEAL FAILURE

Reactor operators observed indications of seal leakage on the 3B recirculation cooling pump, about 11 p.m., October 27, 1982, and began reducing power from 815 megawatts (electrical) (full power). About midnight the seal failed, increasing total leakage in the reactor containment (drywell) to 41.5 gallons per minute from the previous level of about 8.5 gallons per minute. (NRC license Technical Specifications permit total leakage of 25 gallons per minute.) Normal feedwater flow maintained the reactor water level; the Emergency Core Cooling System was available, but not needed.

At 12:14 a.m., October 28, 1982, the licensee declared an Unusual Event under its emergency plan.

The 3B recirculation cooling loop was isolated at 1:30 a.m. after operators experienced some difficulty in closing a suction valve. The drywell leakage decreased to 6.6 gallons per minute by 2:50 a.m. and 5.5 gallons per minute at 5 a.m.

There was no detectable release of radioactivity to the environment as a result of the seal leak. The containment remains sealed and inerted (with nitrogen gas).

The licensee is making appropriate instrumentation and procedural adjustments for continued operation with one recirculation loop in operation, as permitted by the NRC license. As of 8 a.m. the reactor was operating at 380 megawatts (electrical).

The licensee plans to repair the pump during a maintenance outage, previously planned for early November.

The State of Illinois was notified of the event by the licensee under its emergency plan.

Neither the licensee nor Region III (Chicago) plans to issue a news announcement.

The Headquarters Duty Officer was notified of the event at 12:14 a.m., October 28, 1982, by the Emergency Notification System. This information is current as of 8:00 a.m., October 28, 1982.

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