

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-III-82-117

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 IE staff on this date.

Facility: Commonwealth Edison Company
Zion Nuclear Power Station
Docket Nos. 50-295; 50-304

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

Subject: UNPLANNED GASEOUS RELEASE

A small unplanned gaseous release occurred beginning on October 25, 1982, apparently due to leakage from the waste gas system. During valve manipulations conducted on October 26 in an attempt to locate the leak in the waste gas header, a larger release occurred. The release peaked at approximately 1:30 p.m. on October 26.

Radioactive gases were released from the waste gas system to the auxiliary building and then reached the atmosphere through the monitored auxiliary building vent. About 75 curies of noble gases, primarily xenon, have been released. The maximum release rate was about 35 percent of the technical specification limit. The small release (less than one percent of technical specification limit) continues. The licensee is continuing efforts to locate the small leak.

The release caused minor, short lived, noble gas particulate daughter contamination of about 50 plant employees. The employees were held at the plant for a short period of time to allow decay of the contamination.

This matter is being followed by the Resident Inspector and will be reviewed in further detail during a future routine inspection by a radiation specialist.

The Preliminary Notification is issued for information at this time due to the potential for public awareness of the incident. The licensee is considering notifying local news media of the release. Region III (Chicago) will respond to inquiries.

The State of Illinois has been notified.

IES4

Region III was notified of the incident by the Senior Resident Inspector at 2:00 p.m. on October 26, 1982. This information is current as of 10:00 a.m., October 27, 1982.

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