

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: Quad Cities Unit 2
Docket No. 50-265

Licensee Emergency Classification
General Emergency _____ Site Area Emergency _____
Alert _____ Unusual Event _____ N/A X

Subject: REMOVAL OF COUPLED CONTROL ROD DRIVE ALLOWS LEAKAGE

On March 11, 1992, maintenance personnel attempted to remove a control rod drive for replacement of an O-ring. That effort required unlatching the control rod blade from the drive. After lowering the control rod drive, the workers determined that they had not successfully uncoupled the two, although an indicating light on the unlatching tool had indicated so. Unit 2 is shut down for refueling, and the fuel has been removed from the reactor vessel and is stored in the spent fuel pool.

When a control rod drive is removed for maintenance, a leak of approximately eight gallons per minute is expected and was observed in this case. Because the control rod drive and blade were still attached, the licensee anticipated that it would take longer than normal to reinstall the drive and halt the leak. The licensee promptly installed the fuel pool gates to prevent the flow of water from the fuel pool into the refueling cavity and out of the opening in the bottom of the reactor vessel created by the lowered control rod drive. A special procedure was written with the assistance of the reactor vendor (General Electric) and the control rod drive was reinstalled after about six hours to contain the leak.

During these activities, an estimated 2,800 gallons of water was drained from the reactor vessel to the reactor building equipment sump, and was pumped to the radioactive waste system. There were no personnel contaminations.

After the control rod drive was reinstalled, it was successfully unlatched from the control blade.

The resident inspectors are reviewing the incident.

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

Region III (Chicago) was notified of this incident by the Quad Cities plant manager at 6 p.m. (CST) on March 11, 1992. This information is current as of 4 p.m., March 12, 1992.

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