

January 19, 1996

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-96-004

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 Region III staff (Lisle, Illinois) on this date.

Facility
Commonwealth Edison Co.
Braidwood 2
Braceville, Illinois
Dockets: 50-457

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

Subject: PARTIAL LOSS OF OFFSITE POWER

At 12:32 p.m. (CST) on January 18, 1996, Unit 2 had a partial loss of offsite power when breakers supplying the two System Auxiliary Transformers (SATs) tripped. Unit 2 was operating at 100 percent power at the time. All safety systems functioned as expected during the loss of power, except that the Unit 1 containment ventilation system isolated unexpectedly. The two emergency diesel generators automatically started and supplied power to the engineered safety features (ESF) buses. As designed, the SATs also supplied electrical power to two of the non-vital equipment buses including power for two reactor coolant pumps. This power was fast transferred to the Unit 2 Unit Auxiliary Transformers (UATs). Unit 2 remained at 100 percent power. Unit 1 and 2 are under a 72 hour limiting condition for operation action statement.

A rain storm with lightning and high winds was in the area at the time of the partial loss of offsite power. A lightning strike to either the transformer or the switchyard breaker is a possible cause of the event. External damage was visible on one breaker in the switchyard and one SAT. An electrical short on this SAT from roofing material blown off the turbine building is another possible cause.

At 2:00 p.m. (CST), the Unit 2 ESF buses were connected to the Unit 1 ESF buses and the Unit 2 diesel generators were shut down. Tests are currently being done on the other Unit 2 SAT to determine if it is undamaged, and can be used for power supply to the Unit 2 ESF buses.

The licensee declared an Unusual Event under its emergency plan and will remain in this status until a Unit 2 SAT is the source of power to the Unit 2 ESF buses. The resident inspectors and a regional inspector are onsite, monitoring the licensee's response to the event.

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

The licensee notified the NRC Operations Center at 1:03 p.m. (CST) on January 18, 1996. This information is current as of 12:05 p.m. (CST) on January 19, 1996.

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