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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION
OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-92-27
Date May 22, 1992

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: Illinois Power Co.
Clinton Nuclear Power Station
Docket No. 50-461

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

Subject: FIRE IN OFF-GAS SYSTEM CHARCOAL TANK

At 8:00 a.m. (CDT) on May 22, 1992, the licensee received a high temperature alarm for the first of two charcoal tanks in the off-gas system for the plant, indicating a fire in the tank. The unit has been shut down since February 27, 1992, for refueling and maintenance.

The licensee declared an unusual event under its emergency plan. The licensee has begun purging the tank with nitrogen to extinguish the fire. Since the start of the purge, temperature of the tank has been decreasing. The plant fire brigade is standing by outside the room containing the tanks. No offsite fire fighting assistance has been requested by the licensee.

The radiation monitor for the off-gas system exhaust has shown no evidence of a radiological release from the charcoal tank.

The licensee had planned to begin startup of the unit today, May 22, but startup has been delayed.

The resident inspectors are maintaining 24-hour coverage at the plant, assisted by a region-based inspector.

There has been local news media interest. The State of Illinois has been informed. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

Region III (Chicago) was notified of the fire by the resident inspector at 8:05 a.m. on May 22, 1992. This information is current as of 10 a.m. on May 22, 1992.

RDP
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