

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
Byron Nuclear Plant, Unit 1
Byron, IL 61010

Docket No: 50-454

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

Subject: COMPLETION OF FUEL LOADING

The licensee completed initial fuel loading of Unit 1 on November 17, 1984, after identifying and correcting the sources of electrical interference in nuclear instrumentation circuits (source range monitor) which had previously halted fuel loading. (Reference PNO-III-84-96.)

The cause of the electrical interference was found to be faulty cable connectors in the nuclear instrumentation circuitry and -- in addition -- corroded fuse brackets for mercury vapor lights in the auxiliary building. The fuse bracket corrosion created an intermittent electrical connection which generated interference or "noise" in the instrument circuits.

Fuel loading began November 1, 1984. In addition to the delays caused by the instrumentation interference, the licensee encountered problems with vibration in a drive shaft in the fuel transfer device.

The reactor vessel internals have now been installed and the reactor head placed on the vessel. The licensee expects to achieve initial criticality about January 1, 1985.

The State of Illinois will be informed.

This information is current as of 10 a.m., November 19, 1984.

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