

April 9, 1996

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-96-024

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	Licensee Emergency Classification
Commonwealth Edison Co.	Notification of Unusual Event
Braidwood 1 2	Alert
Braceville, Illinois	Site Area Emergency
Dockets: 50-456,50-457	General Emergency
	X Not Applicable

Subject: NOTIFICATION OF EXPOSURE IN EXCESS OF REGULATORY LIMITS

On April 8, 1996, the licensee informed the resident inspectors of preliminary information it had regarding a potential radiation exposure in excess of regulatory limits. During the morning of April 8, 1996, a station laborer was removing dry radioactive wastes from inside the missile barrier inside the containment of Unit 2. Unit 2 is currently in a refueling outage. After exiting containment, and during a manual frisk of personnel dosimetry following the removal of protective clothing, the frisker alarmed, indicating elevated contamination levels. A subsequent survey indentified a hot particle on the laborer's right index finger. The hot particle was later identified as consisting entirely of cobalt-60, with an activity level of 10.9 microcuries (0.4 megabecquerels).

Based upon licensee interviews of the laborer, it appears that he removed his outer glove, while maintaining his cotton liner on, to use a telephone inside containment. The licensee is assuming that this is the point at which the contamination occurred. With that assumption, the licensee has estimated the exposure to the laborer's extremity to be about 71 rads. The NRC limit for extremity exposure is 50 rads in a year. An independent calculation performed by the Region agrees with the licensee's estimate, using the same assumptions.

The Region plans to perform a special inspection to review this incident on April 10, 1996.

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