

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-94-82

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.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
Byron Units 1 & 2	General Emergency
Byron, IL	Site Area Emergency
	Alert
Docket Nos. 50-454; 50-455	Unusual Event
	X Not Applicable

Subject: SULFURIC ACID TANK SPILL

On October 19, 1994, two contractor employees, while investigating a minor leak, were sprayed by sulfuric acid when a PVC valve manifold near the tank apparently broke. Both persons were rushed to the local hospital. One suffered burns to approximately 40% of his body and was transferred to a Chicago area burn center hospital. The other received minor burns while assisting the more injured person to the safety shower.

Approximately 5000 gallons of sulfuric acid were spilled from an above ground storage tank. The tank is located near the circulating water pump building inside the site boundary near the cooling towers but outside the protected area. The acid leaked into the surrounding berm and drained through an open berm drain valve into the circulating water basin. Approximately 200 gallons of the acid remained in the berm area. The circulating water basin was filled with a large volume of water, diluting the spill.

The circulating water system provides the cooling water used to condense the steam coming into the main turbine and has no contact with the nuclear reactor. The licensee anticipates that the spill will have no significant impact on plant equipment. The acid is normally used to control the pH of the circulating water.

Regional personnel will monitor the licensee's actions in response to the spill.

The State of Illinois has been notified. The information in this Preliminary Notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

The NRC Duty Officer was notified at 11:00 p.m. (ET) on October 19, 1994. This information is current as of 10:00 a.m. October 20, 1994.

CONTACT: *Ross B. Landsman*  
Dr. Ross B. Landsman  
708/829-960

*T.O. Martin*  
Thomas O. Martin  
708/829-9601

150021