

May 10, 1996

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-96-029

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.
Quad Cities 1 2
Cordova, Illinois
Dockets: 50-254.50-265

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

Subject: DAMAGE FROM HIGH WINDS AND POSSIBLE TORNADO

At 2:20 a.m. (CDT) on May 10, 1996, minor damage occurred to three buildings on the plant site due to high winds or a possible tornado touching down. There were no injuries to any workers and no indication of radiological releases. Wind speeds up to 76 miles an hour were measured by permanently installed sensors at the site.

The reactor building, which provides secondary containment, sustained damage when about 100 feet of outer layer sheet metal was blown off. An inner layer of sheet metal remained in place and constituted a barrier between the plant and the outside environment. The secondary containment surrounds the containment structure which houses the reactor. Pieces of the sheet metal landed in various locations on the plant site and damaged an adjacent nitrogen tank. Nitrogen leaking from the tank impeded the licensee's recovery efforts somewhat until the tank's contents were depleted around 5:30 a.m.

Two buildings outside the protected area were damaged. A wall of the mixed waste storage building collapsed. Some slightly radioactive hazardous waste is stored in this building. There was no breach of the waste containers and survey crews found no release of radioactive contamination. Damage to the oil storage building caused leakage of some oil and kerosene within the building. No radioactive material was stored in the building. Inspections were done of the station switchyard and no damage was found. Off site power and all emergency diesel generators are available to support the site.

Unit 1 has been shut down since February for a refueling outage. Unit 2 was operating at 100 percent when the event occurred and has commenced the process of shutting down.

An Alert was declared under the licensee's emergency plan at 2:32 a.m. (CDT). The licensee activated its Technical Support Center. All off-site notifications were made to appropriate state and local authorities.

At approximately 10:00 a.m. the licensee determined through tests that approximately one-third of the sirens in the emergency planning zone were disabled due to loss of AC electrical power. Appropriate emergency management agency officials were notified. Troubleshooting is currently in progress.

NRC's Region III Office and Headquarters were in the Monitoring Phase of Normal Mode between 5:20 and 8:20 a.m. (CDT). The NRC resident inspectors and a regional inspector are onsite, monitoring the licensee's response to the event.

The States of Illinois and Iowa, as well as FEMA Regions V and VII, have been notified. The licensee issued a news release about the Alert declaration and plant site damage. Information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

The licensee notified the NRC Operations Center at 3:09 a.m. (CDT) on May 10, 1996. This information is current as of 11:30 a.m. on May 10, 1996.

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