

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 Co.
Byron 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: MEDIA INTEREST IN MINOR RADIATION RELEASE

On June 4, 1985, while taking a sample from the Volume Control Tank, a valve packing apparently failed, releasing approximately 700 millicuries of xenon and krypton gas to the Auxiliary Building. The licensee was alerted to the release by an increased count rate in some nearby radiation detection equipment.

As a precautionary measure, the licensee evacuated several hundred workers from the Auxiliary Building. The noble gases were removed by the ventilation system. Releases from the plant via the ventilation system were within technical specification limits. The release was not reportable.

The clothing of twelve workers was contaminated with short-lived noble gas daughters. The workers' clothing was aerated to remove the contamination, and the employees were allowed to return to work.

Personal dosimeters on seven of the 12 workers showed readings of 10 millirem which included exposures for the day's work. The licensee has since repaired and tested the failed valve.

Region III (Chicago) was first informed of this event about 2 p.m. (CDT), June 5, 1985, when a reporter from a Chicago radio station telephoned the Public Affairs Office. The reporter's story was aired on June 7, 1985. Media attention has increased steadily.

Region III has been monitoring the licensee's course of action. A health physics inspector is on site. The radiological health consequences of this event are not significant. Region III is interested in assuring the root cause is known.

The State of Illinois will be notified.

This information is current as of 3 p.m. (CDT), June 7, 1985.

CONTACT: *BM*
R. Marabito
FTS 388-5667

LR
L.R. Greger
FTS 388-5644

*IE 34
o/*

DISTRIBUTION:

H. St. <u>4:05</u>	MNBB <u>4:07</u>	Phillips <u>4:13</u>	E/W <u>4:03</u>	Willste <u>4:14</u>
Chairman Palladino	EDO	NRR	IE	NMSS
Comm. Roberts	PA		OIA	RES
Comm. Asselstine	MPA		AEOD	
Comm. Bernthal	ELD	Air Rights <u>4:16</u>		MAIL:
Comm. Zech		SP	INPO <u>4:26</u>	ADM:DMB
SECY			NSAC <u>4:24</u>	DOT: Trans Only
ACRS				
CA		Applicable Resident Site <u>4:32</u>		
PDR	Regions I <u>4:17</u> , II <u>4:19</u> , IV <u>4:21</u> , V <u>4:28</u>	Licensee (Corporate Office) <u>4:30</u>		

8506140094 850607
PDR I&E
PNO-III-85-046 PDR