

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.

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Facility: Commonwealth Edison Company
LaSalle Unit 2
Marseilles, IL 61341

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

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Docket No. 50-374

Subject: REACTOR SCRAM----(SECOND UPDATE)

The Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) which was dispatched by the NRC to the Commonwealth Edison Company's (CECo) LaSalle Nuclear Power Plant on March 16, 1988, has completed the onsite segment of its mission and exited with CECo on March 24, 1988.

The AIT was dispatched to the site to review events associated with the dual recirculation pump trip followed by loss of feedwater heating which resulted in neutron flux oscillations and a reactor scram on high power as seen by the Average Power Range Monitors (APRM) on March 9, 1988.

Region III (Chicago) issued a Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL-RIII-88-03) to CECo on March 17, 1988, which confirmed CECo's agreement to perform evaluations of reactor operator and equipment performance and procedural adequacy. The CAL stipulated increased activity level sampling to ensure there were no fuel abnormalities and required the concurrence of Region III prior to restart of the unit.

After a review of these areas by the AIT, as well as a procedural change requiring a manual reactor scram in the event of a dual recirculation pump trip, the Regional Administrator's designee authorized restart of Unit 2 at 10:45 p.m., on March 17, 1988. The unit was subsequently restarted around 3 a.m., on March 18, 1988. Subsequent sampling has continued to indicate no fuel abnormalities as a result of the event.

This event represents a previously analyzed condition which had not been seen on a domestic reactor except during testing. The licensee has put in place several corrective actions including operator training and procedure changes to direct specific actions in the event that instability is detected in the future. The licensee and the reactor vendor, General Electric, are in the process of further analysis of the event which is expected to address the predicted reactor behavior, Technical Specification changes, and any effects on the current Anticipated Transient Without Scram (ATWS) actions (which include deliberate tripping of both recirculation pumps).

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Region III
Rev. November 1987

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The AIT is preparing a report on its findings. Region III has concurred in the restart of Unit 2, however, the rest of the CAL, including a scram on dual recirculation pump trip, remains in effect.

The State of Illinois will be notified. This information is current as of 12 noon (CST), March 25, 1988.

R. Lenz

CONTACT: M. Ring
for FTS 388-5602

W. Forney

W. Forney
FTS 388-5590