

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.

Facility: Commonwealth Edison Co.
Byron Units 1 and 2

Docket Nos. 50-454; 50-455

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

Subject: APPARENT FIREWATCH RECORD DISCREPANCIES

On February 10, 1988, the licensee notified the NRC Resident Inspector that it was investigating discrepancies in the firewatch patrol records. As a result of the continuing investigation, 12 contractor fire surveillance personnel have been terminated and 34 additional individuals have been suspended. The total firewatch force at the plant is 55.

Firewatch personnel are provided by the Wackenhut Corporation, which also supplies the security force at the site. Firewatch patrols are being covered by Wackenhut security working extended shifts.

The licensee's investigation included a random review of 12 dates between February 1987 and January 1988. Firewatch patrol records were compared against records of door entries recorded electronically, and some discrepancies were found, indicating that the workers were not always performing the surveillances indicated in the patrol records.

The licensee's practice is to maintain constant firewatch patrols even if they are not required by the Technical Specifications.

The Senior Resident Inspector is monitoring the licensee's onsite investigation, and Region III (Chicago) is following the investigation as well. The Information Assessment Team and the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation have been informed.

The State of Illinois will be notified.

The licensee issued a news announcement on the investigation and terminations.

Region III was informed of this matter by the Resident Inspector at 12 noon on February 10, 1988. This information is current as of 9:00 a.m., February 11, 1988.

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