

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

May 10, 1977

PDR ad 26 2/7
per J. Ruffly

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-77-77

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of an event of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff on this date.

Facility: Commonwealth Edison Company, Quad-Cities Unit No. 1
(Docket No. 50-254), Cordova, IL

Subject: REACTOR PERIOD LESS THAN 5 SECONDS DURING SHUTDOWN MARGIN TESTS

During a shutdown margin test on May 4, 1977, following a reactor refueling outage, a short reactor period occurred before the power increase was terminated by inserting control rods. The cause of the event was due to not following the procedure for the sequence of withdrawal of the control rods involved. A short blip was observed on the Source Range Monitors. The operator immediately terminated the event by inserting control rods. At the time, the licensee did not believe that a short period had occurred.

After subsequent evaluations, the licensee attempted to take additional data on May 7, 1977. At that time, an error in judgement was made by the Nuclear Engineer in allowing continuous withdrawal of a control rod during the approach to the critical rod configuration. Again a short blip was noted on the Source Range Monitors. A strongly reactive control rod was reinserted and a seventy-five (75) second period was achieved.

Based on calculations of rod worth the licensee has estimated that the period on both occurrences was less than 5 seconds.

A Region III (Chicago) inspector is being dispatched to the site.

No press release is planned by the licensee or Region III (Chicago).

The states of Illinois and Iowa are being informed of this event.

This PN is being issued because the occurrence is considered to be unusual and may have generic implications.

Region III (Chicago) received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the Plant Superintendent at 2:00 p.m., on May 8, 1977.

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