

October 6, 1998

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-98-047

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.
La Salle 2
Marseilles, Illinois
Dockets: 50-374

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

Subject: INJURED DIVER TAKEN TO HOSPITAL WITH MINOR CONTAMINATION

At about 3:58 p.m. (CDT) on October 5, 1998, a diver lost consciousness while in the Unit 2 suppression pool. He regained consciousness after being removed from the pool. The diver, accompanied by plant radiation protection personnel, was taken by ambulance to St. Mary's Hospital in Streator Illinois, where he remained overnight for observation.

The diver received minor contamination on his hair (about 5000 disintegrations per minute) during removal of his mask and diving suit. He was successfully decontaminated. Radiation protection personnel surveyed the ambulance and hospital treatment area and identified no additional contamination.

The diver was supporting the Emergency Core Cooling System suction strainer replacement activities in the Unit 2 suppression pool. Unit 2 has been shut down since September 1996 for refueling, modification, and performance improvement activities.

The licensee has not determined why the diver lost consciousness and is continuing its investigation of the incident. The NRC inspectors are following the licensee's review.

The licensee declared an Unusual Event under its emergency plan and notified the State of Illinois. The NRC Operations Center was notified of this event, on October 5, 1998, at 4:42 pm (C.D.T.). This information is current as of 1:30 pm on October 6, 1998. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

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