Date: November 7, 1994 -1-

PDR advance of per I. Rathie

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RELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-94-86

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 bas_cally all that is known by the Region III staff on this date.

Licensee Emergency Classification Facility General Emergency Commonwealth Edison Co. Site Area Emergency Braidwood 2 Alert Braceville, Illinois Unusual Event X Not Applicable Docket No. 50-457

Subject: DAMAGE TO EMERGENCY DIESEL GENERATOR

On November 3, 1994, near the end of an operability test for the 2B emergency diesel generator, a master rod in the diesel failed, resulting in significant internal damage to the 1L and 1R cylinders. Unit 2 has been shut down since October 8 for refueling and maintenance.

An examination of the broken rod revealed numerous hairline cracks which apparently caused the rod failure, according to the licensee and a representative of the diesel manufacturer, Cooper Bessemer. The Cooper Bessemer representative indicated that the cracks were probably due to an inappropriate repair technique (iron plating) during manufacturing used on

limited number of rods produced before 1987. The manufacturer issued a J CFR 21 notification in 1987 after a master rod failure at the Palo Verde Nuclear Power Station. The company notified Commonwealth Edison that only one rod had been sent to the utility, and it was installed at Byron. That rod was subsequently replaced. The Cooper Bessemer review apparently missed the master rod which failed in the Braidwood diesel.

A Region III (Chicago) inspector was dispatched to the Braidwood site to review the diesel damage on November 4-5, 1994. The Cooper Bessemer representative indicated to the inspector that che company would review its 10 CFR 21 report and search its records for any additional rod problems that had been missed at the time of the 1987 review.

Licensee personnel are currently repairing the damaged diesets The diesel will be tested following the repair, which is expected to be completed November 8, 1994.

The State of Illinois will be notified. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management:

Region III was notified of the diesel damage on November 3, 1994. This information is current as of 9 a.m. on November 7, 1994.

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