

August 15, 1997

## PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-97-065A

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  
Illinois Power Co.  
Clinton 1  
Clinton, Illinois  
Dockets: 50-461

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

Subject: AUGMENTED INSPECTION TEAM TO REVIEW 4160 VOLT CIRCUIT BREAKER FAILURE (UPDATE)

On August 5, 1997, a 4,160 volt Westinghouse circuit breaker failed to open upon signal during the planned switch of pumps in the residual heat removal (RHR) system. At the time of the incident, the unit was being prepared for startup after a refueling and maintenance outage which began September 5, 1996.

The licensee's investigation has attributed the failure to the lack of appropriate maintenance and lubrication of circuit breaker components. As a result the spring forces which open the breaker were insufficient. There were no problems found with the latching and control components of the breaker.

Because of these findings, the licensee is planning to perform maintenance on all 4,160 volt and 6,900 volt Westinghouse circuit breakers. About 70 circuit breakers in both safety-related and non-safety-related systems will be involved. This maintenance will involve inspecting, cleaning, lubricating, and testing each breaker. The work will be done onsite and, in some cases, offsite.

These corrective actions are expected to extend the current outage for several weeks.

The NRC Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) has performed an independent review of the circumstances surrounding the circuit breaker failure. The team will hold its exit meeting with the licensee on August 20. This meeting will be open to public observation.

Region III (Chicago) issued a news announcement on the AIT review and has continued to respond to news media inquiries.

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

This information is current as of 1 p.m. on August 15, 1997.

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