

May 16, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-00-018A

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	Licensee Emergency Classification
Commonwealth Edison Co.	Notification of Unusual Event
Byron 1	Alert
Byron, Illinois	Site Area Emergency
Dockets: 50-454	General Emergency
	X Not Applicable

Subject: TRUCK CARRYING USED FUEL STORAGE RACK STRUCK BY ANOTHER VEHICLE
A SECOND TIME DURING THE SHIPMENT

On May 15, 2000, a semi-truck carrying a package of radioactive material for the Byron Nuclear Generating Station - the licensee - en route to the Alaron Corporation in Wampum, Pennsylvania was involved in a second vehicular accident. As previously reported (PN # 300018), on May 11, 2000, the semi-truck was struck by another vehicle while parked at a truck stop in Rochelle, Illinois shortly after it left the Byron Station. The shipment was returned to the Byron Station on May 11, the package position was re-adjusted on the vehicle and the shipment was released from the station on May 12, 2000. The package contained a used fuel storage rack, which previously had been in the licensee's spent fuel pool. The material was stored in a metal container and was packaged for transport as a Low Specific Activity - II package. Due to the size of the container, over-size load restrictions applied to the shipment.

At 11:45 a.m. May 15, 2000, the licensee was notified that the truck had been struck by an automobile at approximately 7:50 a.m., when negotiating a curve on northbound State Route 4005 in Darlington Township, Beaver County, Pennsylvania. The scene of the accident was about 10 miles from the Alaron facility. A safety officer from Alaron responded to the scene and verified that the package integrity remained adequate for transport. The package was not damaged or breached and radiological surveys confirmed that no radioactive contamination had been released from the package. Surveys showed that the package's radiological conditions had not changed from the time the shipment left the Byron Plant on May 12, 2000. Licensee staff have been dispatched to the Alaron facility to perform confirmatory surveys.

The County Emergency Management Agency and the Pennsylvania State Police

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responded to the accident scene. State Route 4005 in the local vicinity was closed for between two and three hours. The two occupants of the vehicle that struck the truck carrying the package were transported to a local hospital for observation. A local (within one mile) pre-school was not opened and children were alternately bused to a local high school until an assessment of the event was completed. There was local media interest in the accident. The U.S. Department of Transportation was notified of the event but did not respond to the scene.

The semi-truck sustained minor damage and continued to the Alaron

Corporation in Wampum, Pennsylvania where the package was received and offloaded safely.

The Region III office notified Region I of this incident. Neither office plans to take any additional actions with respect to this incident.

The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with the licensee.

This information is current as of 12 Noon CDT, May 16, 2000.

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