

February 24, 2006

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-06-006

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 the Region III staff on this date.

Facility

Byron

Exelon

Byron, Illinois

Docket: 050-454

License: NPF-37

Licensee Emergency Classification

X Notification of Unusual Event

 Alert

 Site Area Emergency

 General Emergency

 Not Applicable

SUBJECT: UNUSUAL EVENT DECLARED DUE TO A FIRE WITHIN THE PLANT
PROTECTED AREA

DESCRIPTION:

At 8:36 a.m. CST on February 24, 2006, a fire alarm was received in the vicinity of the Refueling Water Storage Tank (RWST) tunnel. Smoke was seen near the 1B Safety Injection (SI) pump room. The plant declared an Unusual Event at 8:54 a.m., as a result of a fire in the protected area remaining unextinguished for greater than fifteen minutes.

Plant personnel identified the source of the fire to be the Unit 1 RWST heater. Initial attempts to manually trip the heater breaker at the Motor Control Center failed. Subsequently the breaker was opened and the heater de-energized, which caused the fire to extinguish. Local Fire Department arrived at the plant, but its assistance was not required to extinguish the fire. The Unusual Event was terminated at 11:09 a.m. There is no threat to public health and safety.

The Licensee notified the NRC Operations Center of this event at 9:22 a.m. on February 24, 2006. NRC Region III manned its Incident Response Center and the agency entered the monitoring mode of event followup at 9:36 a.m. CST. The monitoring mode was exited at 11:52 a.m., and the NRC resident inspectors are monitoring the repair and restoration of the RWST heater.

The licensee has notified appropriate state and local officials and the local media. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management. This information is current as of 1:00 p.m. on February 24, 2006.

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