

October 4, 1996

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-96-063A

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 1
Marseilles, Illinois
Dockets: 50-373

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

Subject: EXTENSION OF FORCED OUTAGE AND SPECIAL INSPECTION
TEAM DISPATCHED (UPDATE)

Unit 1's forced outage has been extended to approximately October 23, 1996, due to new engineering and work control issues which have emerged during the outage. The unit was shut down on September 22, 1996, to repair a turbine control valve. The valve was repaired, but the unit remained shut down for an engineering evaluation of an issue (raised by an NRC inspection) concerning a possible water hammer in the residual heat removal (RHR) service water system.

Subsequently, the licensee identified a second engineering issue, involving a concern that certain air-operated valves in the Primary Containment Isolation System might not close under all operating conditions. Both testing and expanded engineering evaluations are being conducted as a result of the finding that the effective area of diaphragms in the valves' actuators differs from design information provided by the manufacturer. This issue may be generic, with implications for air-operated valves at other nuclear plants.

A work control issue related to the LaSalle Unit 2 refueling outage was also identified by the licensee. Recently there were two examples of inadequate controls in equipment removal from service and its restoration to service under the licensee's out-of-service process. One example involved a Reactor Protection System trip function, and the second involved Primary Containment Isolation System motor-driven valves.

A special NRC inspection team was dispatched to the plant on October 1, 1996, to independently assess these developing issues and the licensee's performance in the areas of engineering and work controls.

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

This information is current as of 3:00 p.m. on October 3, 1996.

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