

December 18, 1996

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-96-074

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 2
Marseilles, Illinois
Dockets: 50-373,50-374

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

Subject: OUTAGES EXTENDED TO ADDRESS OPERATIONAL AND DESIGN ISSUES

On December 13, 1996, the licensee informed NRC Region III (Chicago) that it planned to extend the outages for both LaSalle units to address operational and design engineering issues identified during an Independent Self Assessment (ISA) initiated by the licensee. Unit 1 was shut down September 22 to repair a turbine control valve and the outage was extended to evaluate several engineering issues. Unit 2 was shut down September 20 for refueling. The scheduled startup dates for Unit 1 and Unit 2 are currently January 30 and February 21, 1996, respectively.

The licensee's ISA was performed by a team of about 20 persons, including consultants, staff members from other utilities, and representatives from the Institute for Nuclear Power Operations (INPO). The assessment team presented its preliminary findings to the licensee on December 13. The final team report will be completed in mid-January.

The ISA team identified several common themes in the areas of Operations, Maintenance, and Engineering. The team also raised some concerns in the area of plant support.

The licensee is developing a startup plan to address both the issues identified by the ISA team and other design and operational issues identified earlier in the outage. Once the startup plan has been prepared, the licensee will determine the additional outage time needed to complete the plan activities and project new startup dates accordingly.

The State of Illinois will be informed. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management. Region III received initial information on the decision to extend the outages on December 13 with additional information obtained on December 17. This information is current as of 1 p.m. on December 17, 1996.

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