

January 28, 1997

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-97-005

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: POSSIBLE DELIBERATE RADIATION EXPOSURE INCIDENT

At 10:30 pm. on January 27, 1997, an individual set off a radiation alarm while using a personal contamination monitor prior to exiting the radiologically controlled area of the plant. Low-level contamination of approximately 150 counts per minute was subsequently identified on the individual's forehead with a hand-held radiation survey instrument. This level of contamination is just above the minimum detection capabilities of the survey instrument which was used and the resultant dose rate from the contamination is significantly less than 1 millirem per hour. As such, the individual did not receive a significant radiation dose from the contamination. The individual was successfully decontaminated.

In investigating the source of the contamination, the individual found a small piece of paper normally used for contamination surveys behind the sweat band in his hard hat. Contamination of approximately 500 counts per minute was detected on the paper using a hand-held radiation survey instrument. The radiation dose rate from this level of contamination is also significantly less than 1 millirem per hour.

The licensee is conducting an investigation in an attempt to determine if the contaminated paper was deliberately placed in the individual's hard hat.

NRC Region III (Chicago) plans to perform a special inspection to review the circumstances surrounding this incident. NRC resident inspectors are monitoring the licensee's investigation.

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

This information is current as of 3:00 p.m. (CST) on January 28, 1997.

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