

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 staff on this date.

Facility: Commonwealth Edison Company
Byron Unit 2
Byron, Illinois 61010

Licensee Emergency Classification:
____ Notification of an Unusual Event
____ Alert
____ Site Area Emergency
____ General Emergency
XX Not Applicable

Docket No: 50-455

Subject: LOW-LEVEL CONTAMINATION OF FLUSHING SYSTEM

Commonwealth Edison Company has reported that a demineralizer resin tank, used in flushing Unit 2 piping, was found to contain low levels of radioactivity and that low levels of radioactivity were also found at the Ohio facility which regenerates the resin tanks used at the Byron site. Unit 2 is still under construction, while Unit 1 is in operation.

The licensee reported that the contamination was found August 15, 1985, when resin beads were found in a filter on a truck mounted demineralizer used in the flushing of Unit 2 piping. Radiation measurements, taken as a precaution, disclosed low levels of contamination. The licensee is investigating possible sources of the contamination.

The licensee also dispatched radiation protection personnel to Arrowhead Wastewater Treatment Company, Columbus, Ohio, where the truck-mounted demineralizer tanks, used at Unit 2, are regenerated. Measurements made of about 2,500 gallons of sludge in the facility's regeneration tank showed a radioactive concentration of 0.1 picocurie per cubic centimeter--with a total radioactive content of about 1 microcurie. (The licensee reported the contamination to be cobalt 58.) This concentration is less than the Maximum Permissible Concentration in water for discharge to unrestricted areas. Measurements by licensee personnel of the discharge line from the regeneration tank and in the sanitary sewer line showed no detectable radioactivity. The contaminated sludge is to be returned to the Byron site for processing and disposal.

Seven truck-mounted demineralizer systems have been sent to Arrowhead for regeneration. Five additional trucks with demineralizer tanks remain at the Byron site where they will be held pending analysis of the tanks' contents. A Region III (Chicago) inspector will perform independent measurements at the Arrowhead facility. The resident inspector is monitoring the licensee's activities at the Byron site.

According to the licensee, the water used in flushing Unit 2 pipes was checked through a radiation monitor on the demineralizer intake and through periodic grab samples. No radioactivity was detected, but the demineralizer resins apparently concentrated the radioactivity during the flushing operations.

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The States of Illinois and Ohio will be notified of this information.

Region III was first notified of the contamination at the Byron site on August 15, 1985. Additional information on the measurements from the Arrowhead facility in Ohio was obtained on August 16 and 19, 1985. This information is current as of 10 a.m., August 19, 1985.

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