

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE** PNO-II-08-004

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 all that is known by Region II staff (Atlanta, Georgia) on this date.

<b><u>Facility</u></b>	<b><u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u></b>
Southern Company	Notification of Unusual Event
Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant Unit 1	X     Alert
Columbia, AL	Site Area Emergency
Dockets/License: 50-348 & 50-364/NPF-2 & NPF-8	General Emergency
	Not Applicable

Subject: Alert Due to 1B Emergency Diesel Generator (EDG) Exhaust Header Failure at Farley

On March 13, 2008, the licensee began a two hour surveillance run of the 1B EDG. Approximately 30 minutes into the run the control room received fire alarms for the 1B diesel generator room. The system operator reported the room was full of smoke and the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) fire suppression system had discharged. The control room manually shutdown the 1B EDG due to the event. The licensee declared an Alert at 1644 CDT due to toxic substance CO<sub>2</sub> being released in a safety-related area. The licensee terminated the Alert at 1836 CDT following evacuation of the CO<sub>2</sub> via the building ventilation exhaust system.

The 1B EDG is a Colt Pielstick engine with its exhaust header consisting of segments flanged and bolted together as it progresses toward the turbo-charger inlet. The licensee has determined preliminarily that the cause of the event was an elbow in the exhaust header that had separated at a flanged connection resulting in the 1B EDG room filling with exhaust causing the heat detectors in the room to actuate which resulted in discharge of the CO<sub>2</sub> fire suppression system. The licensee is conducting an investigation to determine the root cause of the component failure.

The replacement of 1B EDG exhaust system was recently completed on February 9, 2008. The licensee planned to install similar headers on all of the Colt Pielstick EDGs; however, these new headers have not been installed on the other EDGs. The 1B EDG was operated three times since the installation of the new exhaust header prior to this failure.

The licensee has issued a press release due to entering an Alert condition. The licensee has received local media inquires about this event. The licensee staffed their Technical Support Center during the Alert.

Region II received initial notification of this occurrence by telephone from the Resident Inspectors. The NRC evaluated the event and determined the circumstances did not warrant activation of the NRC Incident Response Center. The NRC will conduct a follow-up inspection of the licensee's root cause and subsequent corrective actions for this event. This information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 1300 EDT, March 14, 2008.

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