 January 27, 2000

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE** PNO-II-00-003

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 II staff (Atlanta, Georgia) on this date.

**Facility**
Georgia Power Co.
Hatch 1
Baxley,Georgia
Dockets: 50-321

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

Subject: SPECIAL INSPECTION TEAM DISPATCHED TO REVIEW HATCH UNIT 1 REACTOR TRIP AND SUBSEQUENT EQUIPMENT FAILURES

On January 26, 2000, at 6:48 a.m., Hatch Unit 1 tripped from 100% power on low reactor level following a spurious isolation of one of the two main feedwater lines. Following the reactor trip, the High Pressure Coolant Injection (HPCI) and the Reactor Core Isolation Coolant systems (RCIC) automatically started and operated satisfactorily. These systems, combined with the remaining feedwater, restored reactor water level to the high level turbine trip setpoint, at which time the HPCI, RCIC, and the feedwater pumps tripped as designed. Operators attempted to use the RCIC for level control but the system initially did not restart. After several attempts to reset the RCIC turbine, the system was successfully restarted.

In accordance with procedures, the operators manually closed the Main Steam Isolation Valves (MSIVs) to prevent water from entering the main steam lines. Following the MSIV closure, 10 of the 11 Safety Relief valves (SRVs) failed to operate when operators attempted to open the valves for reactor pressure control. The 11th SRV opened on the first attempt and two additional SRVs opened on subsequent attempts. The licensee placed the unit in cold shutdown to investigate the cause of the trip and subsequent equipment failures.

The licensee plans to send the 11 SRV assemblies to a vendor for testing and analysis. A RCIC system expert will assist the licensee in the analysis of the RCIC problem.

NRC Region II dispatched a Special Inspection Team to the site to assist the resident inspector staff. The inspectors will assess equipment and personnel performance and licensee actions in response to the reactor trip.

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