

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-00-040

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.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
Tennessee Valley Authority	Notification of Unusual Event
Sequoyah 1 & 2	Alert
Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee	Site Area Emergency
Dockets: 50-327, 50-328	General Emergency
	X Not Applicable

Subject: UNIT 1 REACTOR TRIP FOLLOWING LOSS OF A MAIN FEEDWATER PUMP

On September 25, 2000, Sequoyah Unit 1 tripped following the loss of the 1A main feedwater pump. Prior to the unit trip, the licensee had been evaluating a condition of increasing vibration on the No. 4 reactor coolant pump motor. Following the trip, the decision was made to bring the unit to Mode 5 (cold shutdown) and effect necessary repairs.

At 00:02 a.m. EDT on September 26, 2000, while placing the 1A residual heat removal (RHR) pump in service, pressurizer level began to decrease and pressurizer relief tank (PRT) level was observed to increase. Operators stopped the RHR pump at 00:04 a.m.

At 00:13 a.m., when stopping of the RHR pump was determined not to have fully arrested the transfer of coolant from the reactor coolant system into the PRT, the RHR system was isolated from the reactor coolant system rendering RHR inoperable. Steam dumps in combination with auxiliary feed water were used to remove decay heat while RHR was inoperable.

Later, with the unit stable in Mode 4 (hot shutdown), the licensee evaluated plant conditions in accordance with their emergency plan implementing procedure and determined that conditions had been met for declaration of an Unusual Event (NOUE), during the brief period when the RHR system was in service. Specifically, during that period, the rate of level rise in the PRT indicated an identified leak rate which exceeded the criteria of 25 gallons per minute. In accordance with the same procedures, because plant conditions had returned to a non-emergency state (the leakage had been stopped) before the emergency could be classified, the condition was reported to the NRC, but an NOUE was not declared.

The licensee replaced a RHR system relief valve that was the cause of the leakage, both trains of RHR were returned to service, and the unit placed in Mode 5 (cold shutdown) to perform RCP repairs and other forced outage work activities.

An NRC resident inspector was present in the control room during the event and observed the licensee's response. The resident inspectors continue to evaluate conditions related to the unit trip, the degraded reactor coolant pump, and the RHR relief valve lift.

RII Emergency Preparedness inspectors will be on site the week of October 2, 2000, for a scheduled inspection and will review licensee actions associated with implementation of the licensee's Emergency Plan.

The State of Tennessee has been informed. Region II received several media inquires regarding the event classification.

This information is current as of 1:00 p.m., EDT, on September 27, 2000.

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