

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-02-036

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

Tennessee Valley Authority
Watts Bar 1
Spring City, TN
Dockets/License: 50-390/NPF-90

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: UNUSUAL EVENT DECLARED

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) officials declared an Unusual Event (UE) at 8:50 a.m. EDT due to a loss of off-site power (LOSP) when a fire broke out in the control building at the Watts Bar hydro plant, approximately one mile from the site. The switchyard at this station provides the two (A and B) 161kV off-site power lines for the site. The "A" train was lost at 8:24 a.m. EDT and the "B" train was lost at 8:42 a.m. EDT. All four emergency diesel generators (EDGs) started and picked up the safety-related loads. The Unit main generator continues to power the non-safety related loads. All safety equipment functioned as designed and the plant is stable. The fire brigade made entry into the hydro station building and fire fighting efforts continue, using several off-site fire departments. Security has also been heightened during the event.

The site has sufficient fuel oil to operate the EDGs for seven days. The licensee plans to enter the hydro plant control room when smoke and heat have abated to determine the extent of the work necessary to restore off-site power.

Two operators from the hydro plant who were taken to the Rhea County Medical Center for treatment for smoke inhalation have subsequently been released.

The State of Tennessee was informed by the licensee.

The NRC Senior Resident Inspector is onsite monitoring the activities. The NRC was placed into the Monitoring Phase of the Normal Mode at 9:56 a.m. EDT.

Region II received initial notification of this occurrence by telephone call to the NRC Operations Center at 9:11 a.m. EDT, on September 27, 2002.

The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee, and is current as of 11:30 a.m. EDT, on September 27, 2002.

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