

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

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 on September 27, 2002, due to a loss of off-site power when a fire broke out in the control building at the Watts Bar hydro plant. The switchyard at this station supplies two preferred 161kV off-site power lines to the site.

The fire was extinguished at 1:53 p.m. EDT and the licensee declared a 10 CFR 50.54(x) condition for site fire brigade response time during the two hours that the fire brigade was dispatched to the hydro unit. The licensee completed its engineering evaluations and qualified the two reconnected off-site power lines by 7:00 p.m. EDT, September 27. The licensee completed the re-alignment of power from the emergency diesel generators to the 161kV off-site power lines at 2:46 a.m. EDT, September 28, and exited the UE at 3:08 a.m. EDT, September 28.

The NRC Resident Inspectors monitored the licensee's activities until the UE was exited. The NRC Region II Incident Response Center was secured from the Monitoring Phase of the Normal Mode for this incident at 3:15 a.m. EDT, September 28.

On September 30, a Region II electrical inspector was dispatched to the site to review the licensee's actions with respect to the loss of power and its subsequent restoration.

This information is current as of 11:00 a.m. EDT on September 30, 2002.

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