

March 6, 1997

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1997 MAR 12 AM 8:07
PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-97-016

PUBLIC DOCUMENT ROOM
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 in Atlanta, Georgia on this date.

Facility

Tennessee Valley Authority
Watts Bar 1
Spring City, Tennessee
Dockets: 50-390

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: AUTOMATIC REACTOR TRIP - LOW STEAM GENERATOR WATER LEVEL

On March 6, 1997, at approximately 5:17 a.m., EST, Unit 1 received an automatic reactor trip signal from 67 percent power level due to a low steam generator water level in the No. 4 steam generator. Prior to the reactor trip the unit was operating at 100 percent power level when an instantaneous bearing failure caused the loss of the 1B Main Feedwater Pump (MFP). An automatic turbine runback signal (greater than 85 percent power) resulted in power level being decreased to less than 80 percent as designed. The reactor operators then continued the turbine runback manually.

Immediately prior to the event MFP 1B turbine vibration high alarm was received followed immediately by a trip of the pump. A failure of the MFP bearings is the suspected cause. The licensee is assembling an investigation team, which will include the MFP vendor. In addition, the licensee is planning to inspect inside the main feedwater line to No. 4 steam generator, as part of a continued troubleshooting plan initiated prior to the trip, based on an indication of partial flow obstruction.

All safety systems functioned as designed during the event. All control rods fully inserted. The plant is currently in Mode 3 with cooldown in progress to cold shutdown.

The resident inspectors responded to the event and are continuing to review the recovery activities.

The State of Tennessee has been informed.

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This information is current as of 1:00 p.m., EST, on March 6, 1997.
Region II received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the
resident inspector at 6:45 a.m., EST, on March 6, 1997.

Contact: Mark Lesser
(404)331-0342