

February 19, 2010

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE

PNO-II-10-001

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of possible safety or public interest significance. Some of the information may not yet be fully verified or evaluated by the Region II staff (Atlanta, GA).

Facility:

Catawba Nuclear Station

Unit 1

York, South Carolina

Docket No: 50-413

Licensee Emergency Classification:

Notification of Unusual Event

Alert

Site Area Emergency

General Emergency

Not Applicable

SUBJECT: RCS PRESSURE BOUNDARY LEAKAGE IDENTIFIED ON RTD WELD

On February 18, 2010, at 3:33 a.m., Catawba Unit 1 was shutdown to Mode 3 to allow for additional inspection of a reactor coolant leak. The unidentified RCS leak rate was 0.08 gpm. Initial inspection using a remotely operated camera indicated that the leakage was coming through the insulation on the reactor coolant "A" hot leg. On February 18, 2010, at 1:48 p.m., the unit entered Mode 4. A bare metal visual inspection confirmed pressure boundary leakage at a seal weld on the 1A Hot Leg Wide Range RTD thermowell. No release to the environment occurred as a result of this leak and there is no danger to the public.

The licensee made the proper notifications and entered Technical Specification 3.4.13, "RCS Operational Leakage." The unit entered Mode 5 on February 19, 2010, at 0223. The licensee plans to repair the weld, inspect the RTD thermowells on the other loops, and return the unit to power on Sunday, February 21, 2010.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only and no further action by the staff is anticipated.

Region II received initial notification of this occurrence by telephone from the Resident Inspectors at 6:30 p.m. on February 17, 2010. The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 11:00 a.m., February 19, 2010.

ADAMS Accession Number:

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