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**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION**

March 19, 1980

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-80-45**

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of an event of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff as of this date

**FACILITY:** Tennessee Valley Authority  
Bellefonte, Units 1 and 2  
Docket Nos. 50-438, 50-439  
Scottsboro, Alabama

**SUBJECT:** POTENTIAL FAILURE OF MAIN STEAM LINES

On March 19, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) reported to RII that Babcock and Wilcox (B&W) (Nuclear Steam System Supplier) had notified them by letter dated March 11, 1980 of the potential for failure of main steam lines in the event of feedwater overflow of steam generators. As the main steam lines are designed by the Architect-Engineer, B&W recommended the review of the steam line design.

Under the postulated accident, a failure of a main steam line may result in a steam generator blowdown and an unplanned criticality due to the cooling effect of the larger water inventory in the overfilled generator.

Region II is looking into the generic aspects of this problem. Regions III, IV, and V have been informed. Duke Power Company has been contacted and their initial review indicates that the problem is not directly applicable to their Oconee facility because of a control grade trip which will shutdown the main feed pumps on high steam generator level. Florida Power Corporation's Crystal River facility is presently in cold shutdown. The applicability to this facility is under review.

Media interest is not anticipated at this time. Neither the licensee nor NRC plans to issue a press release until further information is obtained. The State of Alabama has been notified.

Region II (Atlanta) received notification of this occurrence by telephone from TVA's Nuclear Licensing Station at 12:30 p.m. on March 19, 1980. This information is current as of 3:00 p.m. on March 19, 1980.

**Contact:** R. W. Wright, RII 242-5578; F. S. Cantrell, RII 242-4182

**Distribution:** Transmitted H. St. 4:42  
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Landow (6 min./page)  
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**Other Regional Offices**

(Time)

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