

November 19, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNC 81-80-161

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: Florida Power and Light Company
Turkey Point 3
Docket No. 50-250
Homestead, Florida

SUBJECT: FEEDWATER SYSTEM PIPE BREAK

At 1:30 p.m., a 2-inch steam generator recirculation pump line sheared at its connection to the B steam generator feed regulator valve (FRV) bypass line with the reactor at 50% power. A reactor trip from 100% power had occurred earlier, at 10:16 a.m., following a turbine trip on low level in steam generator A. Initial investigation of the earlier trip attributed the problem to a FRV control failure caused by a loose wire in the valve's controller. The wire was tightened and the plant restarted.

At approximately 50% power, water level oscillations were observed in all 3 steam generators. The FRVs were shifted to manual control and a second feed pump started. The steam generator oscillations increased and a rumbling sound was heard in the control room. Investigation revealed water and steam flowing from the vicinity of a portion of the main feedwater pipe which is located outside of containment. The operators initiated a reactor shutdown but the reactor tripped automatically due to a low steam generator level. Auxiliary feedwater pumps were started and the steam generator level restored. Further investigation revealed the leak to be from the break of the 2 inch recirculation pump line. This break was isolated. No radioactive contamination or personnel injury occurred.

The licensee is investigating the event to determine the cause of the steam generator level oscillations and the pipe break. The resident inspector was in the control room at the time of the event and is continuing to monitor licensee activities.

Media interest may occur. The licensee is considering a news release. The NRC does not plan to issue a news release. The State of Florida has been informed.

Region II (Atlanta) received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the resident inspector at 2:45 on November 19, 1980.

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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

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