

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

May 15, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-79-112

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: Alabama Power Company
Farley, Units Nos. 1 and 2
Docket Nos. 50-348 and 50-364
Dothan, Alabama

SUBJECT: RELEASE TO UNRESTRICTED AREA ONSITE

At 4:00 p.m. on May 14, the licensee discovered that three of five sinks in the Auxiliary Building Equipment Decontamination Room drained to the Unit 2 floor drain tank, rather than the Unit 1 chemical drain tank as shown on plant drawings. Unit 2 is under construction; Unit 1 is shut down for refueling and maintenance.

The Unit 2 floor drain tank water level was maintained by discharging to the Unit 2 tendon access gallery. The tendon access gallery discharges to two onsite ponds in series. The sinks have been in use for 2 months. Analysis of water in the Unit 2 tendon access gallery indicates Cobalt-60 levels of approximately 10^{-5} microcuries per milliliter. Additional analysis of discharges to the first pond indicate Cobalt-60 levels slightly above minimum detectable. Additional water samples from the ponds have been collected for analysis by the licensee's environmental laboratory. It is estimated that 1800 gallons of water has been drained from the sinks. An estimate of radioactivity discharged is not available at this time. Use of the Unit 1 sinks has been discontinued.

There have been no personnel overexposures and no release from the site. The licensee has surveyed the Unit 2 Auxiliary Building and found loose contamination in several areas. Five construction workers were found to have contaminated shoes; none exceeded 500 dpm/100 square centimeters. No detectable contamination was found in the exit path from Unit 2 or in the clock house. Workers in the Unit 2 Auxiliary Building have been evacuated until decontamination of the affected areas is completed. The licensee is continuing to evaluate the situation.

Media interest is expected. A news release is being issued by the licensee. The NRC does not plan a news release at this time. The State of Alabama has been informed.

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Region II (Atlanta) received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the licensee at 5:35 p.m. on May 14. This information is current as of 10:00 a.m. on May 15.

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