

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

April 16, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-79-83

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: Virginia Electric and Power Company
 Surry Unit No. 2
 Docket No. 50-281
 Surry County, Virginia

SUBJECT: PERSONNEL OVEREXPOSURE

A shift supervisor received an apparent whole body exposure of 10.09 Rem on April 14. NRC regulations limit personnel whole body exposure to 3 Rem per quarter. The individual was investigating a water leak in the space beneath Unit 2 reactor vessel about 11:10 - 11:25 p.m. on April 14. Upon exit, the direct-reading pocket dosimeter worn by the employee was off-scale. His TLD was then evaluated and indicated 10.09 Rem whole body exposure. A subsequent radiation survey in the area indicated radiation levels up to 45 Rem per hour. The licensee has arranged for a medical doctor to see the employee on April 16. An NRC medical consultant has been alerted. An IE radiation specialist was dispatched to the site April 15 to review this occurrence.

Media interest is anticipated. The licensee is considering a news release. An NRC news release has not been issued. The Commonwealth of Virginia has been informed.

Region II (Atlanta) received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the NRC Resident Inspector at 3:00 a.m. on April 15. This information is current as of 8:00 a.m. on April 16.

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