

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

July 19, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-79-264

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events 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 on this date.

FACILITY: Georgia Power Company  
Hatch, Unit Nos. 1 and 2  
Docket Nos. 50-321 and 50-366  
Baxley, Georgia

SUBJECT: INTEREST IN ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

One of the five members of the Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) discussed the Georgia Power Company's Annual 1978 Environmental Surveillance Report with reporters following the PSC meeting on July 17, 1979. The principal issue was elevated tritium levels in environmental sample wells onsite and measured tritium levels in two outfalls outside the restricted area but within the Georgia Power Company property.

The Environmental Report discusses two sources of tritium leakage to the plant yard. One source was a one-inch nitrogen purge line to the feedwater heaters which had been utilized during construction. Subsequently, the line had been abandoned in the plant yard and backflow through this line into the ground was detected. The second source was identified as periodic leakage into the ground from the condensate storage tank transfer pumps and valves. These sources of leakage have been terminated; however, further checks are being made to assure no further sources exist. The previous environmental report (1977) also discussed tritium concentrations found in onsite environmental wells which are assumed to come from the above sources.

Both the State of Georgia and Region II have and are continuing to conduct independent environmental measurements and have not detected any elevated tritium concentrations in the Altamaha River, private water wells in the area, or public drinking water supplies in the area. The highest tritium concentration from an outfall is 0.1 percent of the maximum permissible concentration for releases to unrestricted areas.

Region II has responded to local media inquiries. Neither the licensee nor the NRC plans to issue a news release. The State of Georgia has been informed.

Region II (Atlanta) received notification of this occurrence by telephone from local media inquiries at 4:00 p.m. on July 17, 1979. This information is current as of 8:00 a.m. on July 19, 1979.

Contact: E. D. Flack, IE x28188      D. K. Sly, IE x28188

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