

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

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June 28, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-79-202

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 on this date.

FACILITY: Carolina Power and Light Company
Brunswick, Unit No. 2
Docket No. 50-324
Southport, North Carolina

SUBJECT: DOUBLE NOTCHING OF CONTROL ROD

The licensee reported on June 28, while pulling four control rods from notch 6 to notch 8, one rod double notched to notch 10 and was immediately (within 4 seconds) returned to notch 8. Increased radiation levels were noted on the steam air ejectors and off gas monitors. The instantaneous release rate increased from .5 percent to 1 percent of Technical Specification limits. The power level was reduced from 88 percent to 56 percent where it is currently being held. Radiation levels have returned to levels slightly above the levels existing before the notching event. The cause of the increased levels is suspected to be a leaking fuel element in the vicinity of the control rod that experienced double notching. General Electric has been contacted by the licensee and discussions are in progress concerning future action. Radioactive concentrations in the turbine building increased. Since work was in progress on the condenser vacuum system, the turbine building was evacuated for a short time. No Technical Specification limits were exceeded during the event.

Media interest is not expected. Neither the licensee nor the NRC plans a news release. The State of North Carolina has been informed.

Region II (Atlanta) received notification of this occurrence by Telecon from the licensee at 10:15 a.m. on June 28. This information is current as of 10:30 a.m. Contact: G. Klingler, IE x28019; F. Nolan, IE x28019; S. Bryan, IE x28019

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