

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

January 22, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-80-14

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

Commonwealth of Virginia

SUBJECT: MEDIA INTEREST IN VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REPORT ON RADON IN WATER

Significant Virginia news media interest has occurred regarding a recent memorandum by the Virginia Department of Health documenting radon radioactivity in well water at various locations in Virginia. These locations include Louisa County, where the North Anna Station is located, and Campbell County, where the Babcock & Wilcox facilities are located. (Radioactive radon results from naturally occurring materials.) Although there is no connection between these high radon levels and NRC licensed facilities, VEPCO, B&W, and Virginia have responded to media questions on that subject.

No news release has been issued. A news release is not planned by the NRC.

Region II (Atlanta) received notification of this report by telephone from B&W Naval Nuclear Fuel Division at 3:30 p.m. on January 21. Additional information on media interest was received by telephone from the Virginia Department of Health and VEPCO on January 22.

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