

May 21, 1985

Docket Nos. 50-413
and 50-414

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board for
Catawba Nuclear Station
(A. Rosenthal, T. Moore, and H. Wilber)

FROM: Thomas M. Novak, Assistant Director
for Licensing
Division of Licensing

SUBJECT: BOARD NOTIFICATION REGARDING SYSTEM OVERPRESSURIZATION
EVENTS (BN 85-056)

This Notification is being provided for information purposes in accordance with NRC procedures for Board Notifications. The matters described below appear to raise issues, within the scope of Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 50, which were not among the issues considered within the scope of the quality assurance contention in the Catawba operating license proceeding. The parties to the proceeding are also being informed by copy of this memorandum.

On April 19-20, 1985, two unrelated overpressurization events occurred during initial hydrostatic testing preparation of the Unit 2 reactor coolant system.

1. On April 19, portions of the Residual Heat Removal (RHR), Boron Recycle, Nuclear Sampling and Chemical and Volume Control Systems were inadvertently pressurized to 2000 psig. The RHR design pressure is 600 psig. The design pressure for the Boron Recycle, Nuclear Sampling and Chemical and Volume Control Systems is at or below 300 psig. The event was caused by personnel error in not closing two specified motor-operated valves and an earlier blocking of the effluent path of an RHR relief valve during the isolation of Unit 1 from Unit 2. Licensee is presently evaluating the event and will issue a Construction Deficiency Report by May 31, 1985.
2. On April 20, a catastrophic failure resulted to the 75-psig designed Volume Control Tank (VCT) when it was inadvertently overpressurized during its use as a surge tank. The VCT is a 3000 gallon stainless steel tank with a nitrogen gas blanket above the VCT water level. The failure occurred from inadequate administrative control while increasing the water level in the tank and again the earlier blocking of the effluent path of the VCT relief valve during the isolation of Unit 1 from Unit 2. Two mechanics working outside the room received minor injuries. Licensee evaluation is in progress. The tank is being replaced. A Construction Deficiency Report is due May 22, 1985.

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Additional information, including the Construction Deficiency Reports, will be provided once available. The NRC staff will review these reports and the licensee's corrective actions, and will assure resolution prior to a finding of plant completion.

George Knighton
Thomas M. Novak, Assistant Director
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Enclosures:
As stated

cc: ACRS (10)
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Catawba Unit 1
Docket No. 50-413/41

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