

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

May 22, 1981

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-81-37

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: Tennessee Valley Authority
Browns Ferry 3
Docket No. 50-296
Athens, Alabama



SUBJECT: SITE ALERT DECLARED DUE TO HIGH LEAKAGE INTO DRYWELL

At 12:35 a.m. (CDT) on May 22, an unidentified leak in the drywell occurred and a controlled shutdown was initiated. The maximum leakrate was 21.5 gpm. The Technical Specification limit for total leakrate is 25 gpm. The reactor was operating at 100 percent power at the time. The reactor was manually scrammed from 30 percent power at 1:23 a.m. There was no radioactive release to the environment and no contamination of personnel.

The licensee declared a site alert at 12:35 a.m., due to the potential to exceed the leakrate of 25 gpm in their emergency plan. The site alert was terminated at 0224 a.m. Preparations are now being made to determine the source of leakage.

The resident inspector arrived onsite at 2:45 a.m. and is monitoring activities.

Wide media interest has occurred. The licensee has made a press release. The State of Alabama has been notified.

The NRC Emergency Response Center received notification of this occurrence at 2:00 a.m. EDT May 22, 1981. This information is current as of 10:30 a.m. EDT on May 22.

Contact: F. S. Cantrell, RII 242-4182; P. J. Kellogg, RII 242-5581

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Applicable Resident Site <u>11:43</u>	J. G. Davis, NMSs	S. Ebbin, NSOC
Regional Offices	R. Minogue, RES	
Applicable Utility <u>11:52</u>		

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