

May 16, 1983

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-83-39

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the Region II staff on this date.

FACILITY: Tennessee Valley Authority  
Browns Ferry Unit 1  
Docket No. 50-259  
Athens, Alabama

Licensee Emergency Classification:  
 Notification of Unusual Event  
 Alert  
 Site Area Emergency  
 General Emergency  
 Not Applicable

SUBJECT: CRACKS IN RECIRCULATION PIPE WELD

The licensee has found two intergranular stress corrosion cracks on a recirculation line end cap weld. Both cracks are circumferentially oriented and are estimated to be 35 percent through the wall. One is 19 inches long and the other nine inches long.

These indications were identified during ultrasonic inspection being performed in accordance with IE Bulletin 83-02. The weld where the cracks were found is the only one evaluated thus far. Further weld inspections will be done.

Browns Ferry Unit 1 has been shut down since April 16 for refueling and modifications. Recirculation system weld indications were found earlier at Browns Ferry Unit 2 (PNO-II-82-138), but TVA believes they were due to flow-induced vibrational fatigue, rather than intergranular stress corrosion. Recirculation pipe weld indications also have been found at the Brunswick and Hatch sites (PNO-II-83-03, PNO-II-83-05, PNO-II-83-05A, and PNO-II-83-26).

A Region II metallurgical specialist who was on site independently verified the licensee's findings. Appropriate officials of NRR are being kept informed.

Media interest is not expected. Neither the licensee nor the NRC plans a news release.

The State of Alabama has been notified.

This information is current as of 10 a.m. (EDT) today.

Contact: J. J. Blake, RII 242-5539

R. C. Butcher, RII 242-5561

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