

September 30, 1992

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-92-064

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

Carolina Power & Light Co.
Robinson 2
Hartsville, South Carolina
Dockets: 50-261

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event
X Alert
Site Area Emergency
General Emergency
Not Applicable

Subject: ALERT DECLARED DUE TO RELEASE OF TOXIC GAS IN VITAL AREA

On September 30, 1992, at 3:33 a.m. (EDT) during reinstallation of carbon dioxide bottles in the fire suppression system in the auxiliary building, a stuck open solenoid valve caused an uncontrolled release of carbon dioxide gas into the main pipe alley between the auxiliary building and the containment vessel. The licensee immediately declared an Alert.

The licensee has since reported that the release has had no impact on safety-related equipment and that the plant continues to operate at 100 percent power.

Fire suppression systems in two protection zones have been inhibited to preclude inadvertent dumping of carbon dioxide gas, and fire watches have been established for those zones. The licensee actively pursued efforts to isolate the leaks in the auxiliary building and the resident inspectors are monitoring licensee activities from the Technical Support Center. The licensee terminated the Alert at 9:01 a.m. (EDT) once the leak was isolated.

The State of South Carolina was informed by the licensee and the State has been monitoring the licensee's actions. The licensee made a press release.

The NRC received initial notification of this event by telephone call from the licensee at 4:17 a.m. (EDT)

This information is current as of 9:30 a.m. (EDT) on September 30, 1992.

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