

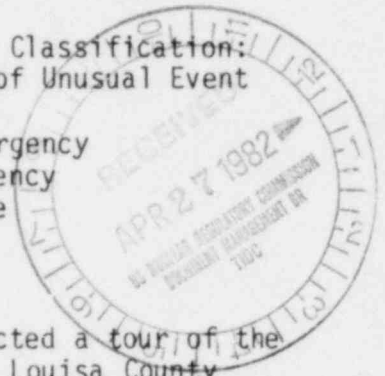
April 16, 1982

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-82-40

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 IE staff on this date.

FACILITY: Virginia Electric & Power Company
North Anna - Units 1 and 2
Docket Nos. 50-338/339
Mineral, Virginia

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



SUBJECT: MEDIA INTEREST IN NORTH ANNA EVENT

On January 14, 1982, Virginia Electric & Power Company (VEPCO) conducted a tour of the North Anna nuclear plant, near Mineral, Virginia, for members of the Louisa County (Virginia) Board of Supervisors. The tour group included five senior VEPCO officials.

VEPCO health physicists had determined that low levels of airborne radioactive particulates (rubidium-88) were present in the fuel handling building, located on the tour route, which were above normal but within NRC regulatory limits.

VEPCO made a determination that no health hazard existed. However, the sensitivity of two radiation monitoring devices in the fuel handling building area was reduced by a factor of ten for the tour group. This action is a violation of procedures and prevented actuation of low level alarms when the tour group exited the area. VEPCO subsequently determined the total exposure to any member of the group to be 0.098 millirem, a small fraction of allowable limits.

VEPCO suspended the two employees involved in changing the sensitivity of the monitoring devices in the fuel handling building for the tour group.

An NRC resident inspector at the plant learned of this event on the evening of April 6. On April 7, NRC officials from Region II contacted VEPCO officials and the North Anna plant manager. Region II dispatched an investigator and a health physicist to the plant on April 8.

On April 14, VEPCO officials personally notified each member of the county's Board of Supervisors of the circumstances during their visit.

On April 15, the NRC Region II Administrator personally contacted the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to inform her that the NRC was conducting a review of the circumstances involved in the event. She was informed that the NRC had determined on an independent basis that no health hazard existed. He added that a copy of the report of the NRC review will be provided to the Board of Supervisors and that a briefing of the Board would be conducted if desired.

The NRC is evaluating actions taken by VEPCO and will take appropriate enforcement action.

Media interest has occurred. VEPCO has issue a news release. The NRC does not plan to issue a news release.

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The Commonwealth of Virginia has been informed.

Region II (Atlanta) received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the Resident Inspector on April 6.

This information is current as of 8 a.m. on April 16.

Contact: A. K. Hardin, RII 242-4182 H. C. Dance, RII 242-5585

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