

April 23, 1982

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-82-48

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: Georgia Power Company
Hatch, Unit 2
Docket No. 50-366
Baxley, Georgia

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

SUBJECT: WATER SPILL IN TURBINE BUILDING

On April 22, at 10:30 a.m., with the reactor shut down for refueling, an improper valve alignment resulted in the release of 20,000 gallons of condensate water containing a low concentration of radioactivity to the turbine building floor.

The licensee was in the process of switching the water flow path in the condensate and feedwater system, by way of the long cycle cleanup path, from the "A" to the "B" condensate booster pump. An operator opened the "B" booster pump discharge valve which directed water flow to the "A" main feed pump suction valve, which had been removed for maintenance. The discharge valve should have been tagged shut for maintenance.

Analysis of samples taken from the condenser hotwell indicated gross activity at 1.54×10^{-6} uCi/ml, the principal isotope being Zinc-65. Turbine building air samples indicated total Iodine activity at 1.8×10^{-10} uCi/ml. Filter analysis indicated gross particulate activity at 2×10^{-9} uCi/ml. These numbers are consistent with activity levels in the area prior to the release of the water, indicating non measurable releases from the spills. Five workers identified and removed trace amounts of radioactivity from their shoes.

The water drained to the turbine building sump. Sump capacity was exceeded, allowing water to back up through floor drains to a cableway. Minor levels of contamination (20,000 dpm per 100 cm) from the sump were measured in the cableway. The contamination was removed.

No radioactivity was released to the atmosphere, and low levels of contamination measured in affected areas of the plant posed no threat to employee health and safety.

This Preliminary Notification is being issued only for information purposes due to possible media interest.

Neither the licensee nor the NRC plan to issue a news release.

The State of Georgia has been informed.

Region II (Atlanta) received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the resident inspector at 11 a.m. on April 22.

This information is current as of 11: a.m. on April 23.

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USDOT/MTB/DMT-122.4 (as applicable)