

August 3, 1982

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-82-91

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 2
Docket No. 50-260
Athens, Alabama

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

SUBJECT: MEDIA INTEREST IN MINOR PERSONNEL CONTAMINATION

At 8:05 p.m. (CDT) on August 2, airborne iodine-131 was detected by a radiation monitor in an occupied space above the Unit 2 refueling floor. The unit was shut down on July 31 for refueling. The airborne radioactivity is believed to have come from a leaking flange in a spray line connected to the reactor vessel head.

Twenty-four employees working in the area were evacuated as a precautionary measure. Monitoring showed them free of external contamination. Whole-body counts revealed that three of these individuals had low levels (3 to 7.8 percent of a maximum permissible body burden) of iodine-131.

In a separate event, at 10 p.m. (CDT) on August 2, the clothing of three individuals and the skin of one person became contaminated with iodine-131 as all four were working in the area of the control rod drive headers. All four individuals were decontaminated to non-detectable levels. This contamination is believed to have been caused by leakage from the scram discharge header.

TVA announced the events on its daily nuclear plant status report, and media interest has occurred. The NRC does not plan to issue a news release.

The State of Alabama has been informed.

Region II (Atlanta) received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the resident inspector at 9:10 a.m. (EDT) on August 3.

This information is current as of 3 p.m. on August 3.

Contact: K. Barr, RII 242-5526; A. F. Gibson, RII 242-5525

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