August 24, 1982

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-82-97

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 Units 1, 2 and 3
Docket Nos. 50-259, 50-260 & 296
Athens, Alabama

Licensee Emergency Classification:
____ Notification of Unusual Event
____ Alert
____ Site Area Emergency
____ General Emergency
__X__ Applicable

SUBJECT: BREACH OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL PACKAGE INTEGRITY

On August 19, a truck transporting low specific activity radioactive material from Browns Ferry to a low-level waste burial ground at Richland, Washington, was found to have liquid dripping from the truck bed while at a stop in Missouri. Missouri authorities found no radioactive contamination and released the truck, which TVA returned to Browns Ferry.

When the truck was unloaded on August 21 at Browns Ferry, one drum was found to have small holes near the base, apparently caused by corrosive liquid inadvertently packaged in the drum. An area of approximately two square feet on the truck bed was found to have detectable contamination, but the level was below Department of Transportation shipping limits. There was no threat to public health and safety.

A Region II radiation specialist is being dispatched to the site.

Media interest is expected, since TVA has announced this event on its daily nuclear plant status report. The NRC does not plan a news release.

The States of Alabama and Missouri have been informed.

Region II (Atlanta) received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the licensee at 10:00 a.m. on August 23. This information is current as of 2 p.m. on August 24.

Contact: T. R. Collins, 242-5565 K. P. Barr, 242-5526

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