

September 14, 1990

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-90-51

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: Duke Power Company  
Catawba Unit 2  
Docket No. 50-414  
Charlotte, NC 28242

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

SUBJECT: REACTOR COOLANT SYSTEM LEAK - CATAWBA UNIT 2

At 2:00 a.m. (EDT) on September 14, 1990, while repairing a thermocouple penetration in the upper head area of the Unit 2 Reactor Vessel, a breach of the reactor coolant boundary occurred, due to a system leak. This leak was through a small hole drilled to repair the leaky cable thermocouple penetration. A notification of an unusual event was declared at 7:10 a.m. The unit is being shutdown to repair the leak.

Prior to the event maintenance personnel were attempting to repair a leaking penetration by installing a seal injection device. The injection device broke loose and a small leak resulted.

The workers reduced the leak by inserting a steel pin into the hole. However, two workers received minor contamination to their hair. The workers were decontaminated by showering and experienced no apparent effects or additional injuries.

The plant is being placed in cold shutdown to repair the leaking penetration.

The State of South Carolina was informed by the licensee. The resident inspectors are on site.

The NRC received initial notification of this event by HQ Duty Officer from the licensee at 7:11 a.m. (EDT) on September 14, 1990.

This information is current as of 11:00 a.m., on September 14, 1990.

CONTACT: M. Shymlock - 841-4196

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5520: 9/14/90 @ TO REGIONS AND HQ

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