

February 7, 1983

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-83-08

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 1
Docket No. 50-259
Athens, Alabama

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

SUBJECT: STEAM SAFETY RELIEF VALVE MALFUNCTION

At 12:22 a.m. (CST) on February 5, with the unit operating at 100 percent power, a scram occurred while the licensee was conducting turbine overspeed tests, resulting in initiation of the main steam isolation function.

Three steam safety relief valves opened as designed at 1105 psig, but one failed to fully close. Blowdown of primary system pressure occurred at a slow rate and a decision was made to go to cold shutdown. The faulty relief valve fully closed at 120 psig. Technical specification limits were not exceeded for plant cooldown or for torus water temperature.

The licensee was unable to identify what initiated the scram. During cooldown, an unidentified leak occurred in a vacuum breaker installed on a safety relief valve tail pipe. The solenoid and pilot cartridge were replaced on one safety relief valve and the leaking vacuum breaker was also replaced.

Restart of the Unit is planned today. The licensee plans to cycle the three safety relief valves during startup at 250 psig to ensure proper operation.

Media interest is not expected. Neither the licensee nor the NRC plans to issue a news release.

The State of Alabama has been informed.

The NRC Headquarters incident response center received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the licensee at 1:40 a.m. (EST) on February 5

This information is current as of 12 noon on February 7.

Contact: R. C. Butcher, RII 242-5561; D. M. Verrelli, RII 242-5559

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