

February 17, 1983

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-83-10

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
 X Not Applicable

SUBJECT: SAFETY SYSTEM ACTUATION ON SPURIOUS SIGNALS

Spurious signals of low reactor vessel water level and high drywell pressure initiated four core spray pumps, four residual heat removal pumps and eight diesel generators at 3:01 p.m. (CST) on February 16. An integrated leak rate test was being conducted. A total of 44,000 gallons of water was injected from the torus to the reactor vessel, which is less than the 50,000 gallons of water which the licensee calculates would be required to fill the vessel. However, air and water were discharged from the open reactor head vent. The torus water level dropped 6 1/2 inches.

All injection pumps were secured. Water chloride and conductivity were within technical specification limits. Water levels have been returned to normal in both the reactor vessel and the torus, and steam lines have been drained. The licensee is investigating to determine the cause of the initiation signals.

Browns Ferry Unit 2 is out of service for refueling and maintenance. Units 1 and 3 are in normal operation.

Media interest has not occurred. Neither the licensee nor the NRC plans to issue a press release.

The State of Alabama has been informed.

Region II (Atlanta) received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the NRC resident inspector at 5:05 p.m. (EST) on February 16.

This information is current as of 10:30 a.m. (EST) today.

Contact: R. C. Butcher, RII 242-5561; F. S. Cantrell, RII 242-5546

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