

September 11, 1990

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-90-50

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: Carolina Power and Light Company
H. B. Robinson
Docket No. 50-261
Hartsville, SC

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

SUBJECT: FREON RELEASE INTO AIR HANDLING ROOM

At 0850 EDT on September 11, 1990, during work on control room habitability modifications, workers cut through a freon line on a habitability chiller. The freon line is located in the air handling room below the control room. The room was evacuated. At 0910 the licensee declared an Unusual Event. At 0947 after review of the emergency plan, the licensee reclassified the event as an Alert based on an unplanned release of toxic gas into this area.

The reactor was shutdown at approximately 0200 on Saturday, September 8, 1990 for scheduled refueling outage.

State and county officials were notified at 0922. The resident inspector was in the control room during the event. At 1021 the licensee downgraded the event to a non-emergency based on concentration in the area of 0.5 ppm of freon. Region II manned its Incident Response Center during the event.

This information is current at of 1100 on September 11, 1990.

CONTACT: D. Verrelli - 841-5535

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5520: 9/11/90 @ 11:35 a.m. TO REGIONS AND HQ AGAIN ON 9/12/90 @ 2:50 p.m.

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PDR I&E
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