

January 8, 1991

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-91-01A

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 Units 1 & 2
Docket Nos. 50-413 & 50-414
Charlotte, NC

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

SUBJECT: SHUTDOWN EXCEEDING 48-HOURS

Unit 1 was taken off line at 5:25 p.m., on January 4, 1991 to investigate the cause of electrical grounds which had developed on the main generator. These grounds were found to be caused by copper deposits on the stator cooling tube lines which cool the rectifier. Tubes were cleaned and reinstalled which should correct the ground problems.

While the unit was down an inspection was made of the hold down U-bolts for the ice baskets in the containment ice condenser. In November 1990, a number of these bolts at McGuire were found missing or broken. On January 5, 1991, the licensee found 3 broken and 1 missing U-bolts and 1 missing clevis pin on Catawba Unit 1. The licensee initiated a torque test on all baskets which could be ejected in the event of an accident plus 10% of the remaining baskets or 672 baskets out of a total of 1944 baskets. As of 9:00 a.m., on January 8 the torque test had been completed on 360 baskets with no failures.

Unit 2 was shutdown to Mode 3 on January 5 to allow for inspection of the Unit 2 condenser ice baskets. A visual inspection of the U-bolts for all baskets was completed on January 6, at 4:00 a.m. No missing or broken bolts were found. The torque test was initiated and as of 9:00 a.m., on January 8 the U-bolts on a total of 274 baskets were tested with no failures.

Unit 1 is scheduled to restart January 12, and Unit 2 is scheduled to restart on January 11.

The licensee has not issued a press release. State and local authorities were not notified.

The NRC resident inspector was notified.

This information is current as of 9:00 a.m., on January 8, 1991.

IE34

CONTACT: W. Miller - 841-4198

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5520: 1/4/91 @ _____ TO REGIONS AND HQ
