

October 14, 1982

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-82-111

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
Oconee Units 1, 2, and 3
Docket Nos. 50-260, 270, & 287
Seneca, South Carolina

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

SUBJECT: PRESSURIZER CODE SAFETY VALVE PROBLEM

On October 14 at 12:42 p.m., (EDT) the licensee began a shutdown on Unit 2 and declared an Unusual Event at 1:15 p.m. (EDT) after determining that pressurizer code safety valve design flow, based upon known valve ring settings, could not be fully maintained if called upon. The licensee action was prompted by notification from Babcock & Wilcox (B&W) regarding the possibility that adequate flow may not be obtained for the pressurizer code safety valves, manufactured by Dresser Industries, for some combinations of back pressure and valve adjustment. The concern arose from B&W's review of data from the generic relief and safety valve test program recently completed by the Electrical Power Research Institute (EPRI).

The licensee estimates that a seven-day outage will be required to change out the code safety valves.

Unit 1 is currently operating at 100 percent power, and the licensee has requested an exemption from the NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) which would allow the Unit to operate with the ring set point for one valve undetermined until either Unit 2 or Unit 3 resumes operation. The Unit 1 valves would then be replaced.

Unit 3 is currently shut down for maintenance, and the code safety valves will be replaced prior to resumption of operation.

Media interest is anticipated. The licensee plans to issue a news release. The NRC does not plan to issue a news release.

The State of South Carolina has been informed.

The Office of Inspection and Enforcement is evaluating the generic aspects of this problem.

The NRC Response Center received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the licensee at 1:02 p.m. (EDT) on October 14.

Contact: A. Ignatonis, RII 242-5588; H. C. Dance, RII 242-5585

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