

December 3, 1990

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-90-73

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 & Light Company
Brunswick Unit 1
Docket No. 50-325
Southport, North Carolina

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

SUBJECT: FIRE IN BRUNSWICK UNIT 1 DRYWELL

On December 3, 1990, at 4:29 a.m. (EST), Brunswick Unit 1 (which is presently defueled) declared an Unusual Event due to a fire in the area around the drywell personnel entry hatch (20 foot level). The fire, which involved numerous temporary electrical cables that had been run through the personnel entry hatch in support of the recirculation pipe replacement, was reported at 4:19 a.m. following the earlier detection of smoke at the 67 foot level of the drywell. Personnel working in the drywell and reactor building were promptly evacuated/accounted for, and fire fighting commenced at 4:37 a.m. The weld heat stress relief equipment being utilized in the drywell was secured when smoke was first detected (3:57 a.m.) and all power to the temporary cables was secured by 4:45 a.m. At 5:12 a.m., efforts to fight the fire from the south side of the drywell (i.e., personnel entry hatch) were discontinued due to too many obstructions, and were resumed from the north side. Drywell and reactor building ventilation were initially secured, but restarted subsequently to purge the areas of smoke. The fire was extinguished at 5:49 a.m. and the Unusual Event was terminated at 5:52 a.m. No release was made and no protective measures were taken or required.

The licensee is presently investigating the cause of the fire and the NRC resident inspectors continue to followup on the event and related licensee activities.

The State of North Carolina was notified, as was Brunswick and New Hanover Counties and the Coast Guard.

The licensee issued a press release.

The NRC received initial notification of this event by telephone call to the Headquarters Duty Officer at 5:08 a.m., on December 3, 1990.

This information is current as of 11:30 a.m., on December 3, 1990.

CONTACT: R. E. Carroll - 841-5543

9101110175 901203
PDR I&E
PNO-11-90-073 PDR

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5520: 12/3/90 @ 1:00 p.m. TO REGIONS AND HQ
