

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

July 27, 1981

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-81-60

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of an event of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff as of this date.

FACILITY: Virginia Electric and Power Company
North Anna 2
Docket No. 50-339
Mineral, VA 23117

SUBJECT: FAILURE OF MAIN TRANSFORMER
(References: PNO-II-80-168, PNO-II-81-44, PNO-II-81-48)

A failure of the "C" main transformer at 3:30 a.m. on July 25, resulted in the transformer rupture and loss of its cooling oil. No fire resulted. Power was being backfed through the transformer during pre-operational testing.

The reactor was shutdown at the time and safety systems were not actuated. No personnel injuries or radioactivity releases occurred. Replacement of the transformer is expected to take several days.

This is the fourth failure of a main transformer at the North Anna 2 facility in eight months. The first three failures were Westinghouse units (500KV/22KV, 330MVA at 55° C). The fourth failure was a Westinghouse unit (500KV/23.8, 277MVA at 55°C) obtained from Georgia Power Company and the fault is believed to have originated from an internal winding failure. This failed transformer was in service during the previous failure. Region IV is contacting Westinghouse regarding their findings and recommendations to preclude other failures. RII is issuing a confirmation of action letter to VEPCO to require NRC concurrence prior to restart.

Media interest may occur. The licensee may issue a press release. No press release is planned by the NRC. The Commonwealth of Virginia has been informed.

Region II (Atlanta) received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the NRR Project Manager at 9:00 a.m. on July 27. This information is current as of 12:15 p.m. on July 27.

Contact: H. C. Dance, RII 242-5540; P. J. Kellogg, RII 242-5581

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