

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-11-91-25

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: Georgia Power Company
P. O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201

Docket Nos. 50-424, 50-425

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

SUBJECT: MEDIA INTEREST IN ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING RESULTS

A local Atlanta radio station (Z93) this morning broadcast selected results from the 1990 annual report of environmental monitoring activities conducted by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) near the Vogtle Nuclear Power Plant. The DNR conducts the monitoring program under contract to the NRC. The broadcast reportedly claimed that elevated levels of tritium, cesium-137, and strontium-90 were found in samples of fish flesh caught in the Savannah River. One sample of non-edible fish parts indicating elevated levels of Sr-90 was caught downstream of Vogtle. NRC staff review of the report noted that the samples of edible fish flesh were caught upstream of the facility. The DNR report further stated that "the elevated activity in the sample is probably not due to Vogtle." The Final Environmental Statement published prior to operation of Vogtle noted detectable levels of H-3, Sr-89, Sr-90, and Cs-137 in pre-operational samples of Savannah River water. NRC staff has evaluated the Georgia Power Company's environmental monitoring capability through inspections including a laboratory intercomparison program. The results of the staff reviews indicate that the Georgia Power Company Power Supply Laboratory demonstrated the ability to accurately quantify radioisotopes in the environment. No reports of effluent monitoring results prepared by Georgia Power and reviewed by NRC staff indicated releases from Plant Vogtle which could reasonably have resulted in the findings reported by the DNR.

The State of Georgia notified the NRC at approximately 9:30 a.m.

This information is current as of 11:30 a.m. on May 23, 1991.

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