

March 19, 1992

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-92-16

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: Tennessee Valley Authority
Sequoyah Unit 2
Docket No. 50-328
Soddy-Daisy, TN 37379

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

SUBJECT: NUMEROUS ICE CONDENSER LOWER DOORS FOUND INOPERABLE DURING OUTAGE INSPECTION

On March 17, 1992 at approximately 1745 hours, the licensee notified the NRC that 27 of 48 lower ice condenser doors were found to be inoperable during a routine inspection. Fifteen of the doors appeared to be substantially restrained. The function of the doors is to open and admit steam into the ice condensers for pressure suppression in the event of a loss of coolant accident or steam line rupture inside containment. At the time of discovery, Unit 2 was in Cold Shutdown, four days after unit shutdown to commence the Cycle 5 refueling outage. Unit 1 was operating at full power at the time.

Licensee inspections in the area revealed that the inner ice condenser concrete floor pad appeared raised up in various bays. The raised floor was causing metal flashing at the bottom of the doors to interfere with door operation. Additionally, cracks and buckling of the floor were observed in the vicinity of fixed columns. Preliminary investigations lead the licensee to postulate that water may have seeped under the concrete floor during previous outages involving ice condenser maintenance activities associated with defrosting evolutions. After completion of these activities, the water refroze causing the ice condenser floor concrete pad to raise. Additional inspections by the licensee and resident inspectors in the Unit 2 ice condenser determined that some areas of the pads appeared to be raised up as much as two inches.

On March 18, the licensee conducted an inspection of the Unit 1 ice condenser concrete floor pads at power and determined that similar problems existed. A total of 11 doors on Unit 1 could not be opened without excessive force. The licensee notified the NRC of a potential condition outside the design basis based on inspection results. After additional management review, the licensee commenced shutdown of the unit and declared an unusual event. The unit is currently in Hot Shutdown.

The resident inspectors will continue to monitor licensee actions. A region based inspector is being sent to the site to evaluate licensee action in identifying the root cause of the condition.

The State of Tennessee was informed.

The NRC received initial notification of this event from the Licensee at 1745 (EDT) on March 17, 1992.

This information is current as of 9:00 a.m, on March 19, 1992.

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PNO-II-92-016 PDR

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