

ART  
1/18/92

DATE: April 2, 1992

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-11-92-22

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. This information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the Region II staff of this date.

FACILITY: Catawba Nuclear Station Duke Power Company Rocket No. 50-413, 414 Clover, SC 29710	Licensee Emergency Classification: <input type="checkbox"/> Notification of Unusual Event <input type="checkbox"/> Alert <input type="checkbox"/> Site Area Emergency <input type="checkbox"/> General Emergency <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
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SUBJECT: CATAWBA HOT PARTICLE CONTAMINATION EVENT

On April 1, 1992, at 19:50 hours a hot particle was detected on the head of a safety worker when exiting the licensee protected area. The particle was removed manually from the employee's head and subsequently analyzed.

The initial evaluation by the licensee indicated the hot particle was a 0.75 microcurie (uCi) activation product consisting predominantly of Cobalt-60 (0.69 uCi) and Manganese-54 (0.05 uCi). Using VARSKIN methodology and a particle residence time on the skin of 11.5 hours (based on dose card records), maximum exposures to the skin of approximately 29.85 Rem and 8.62 uCi-hour were calculated. The 8.62 uCi hr value is less than the NRC beta emission criterion of 75 uCi-hrs, used for enforcement consideration. No measurable whole body dose was reported on the individual's self reading dosimeter.

Interviews with the employee revealed that the only contaminated area entered by the worker was the Unit 1 Penetration Room. The licensee considered radiological controls for the area to be appropriate. Preliminary investigation indicated that potential contributing factors to the particle contamination of the worker included failure to dressout and to conduct proper frisking during egress of the contaminated area in accordance with the approved Radiation Work Permit.

The licensee's assessment of this event is ongoing. Surveys of the contaminated area for hot particles are to be conducted at a later date. Region II will continue to monitor follow-up activities.

The NRC resident inspector received initial notification of this event from the licensee at 7:00 (EST) on April 2, 1992.

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PDR I&E  
PNO-11-92-022 PDR

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IE 34

This information is current as of 12:00 noon on Thursday, April 2, 1992.

CONTACT: George Kuzo  
841-2560

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