

2/13/92

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-92-09

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  
Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant  
Docket No. 50-259, 260, 296

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

SUBJECT: TRANSPORTATION ACCIDENT INVOLVING RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL

At 7:57 p.m. CST, Wednesday, February 12, 1992, a truck carrying a Sea-Land container was involved in a single vehicle accident in Nashville, Tennessee. The shipment was enroute from Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant to Quadrex near Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The Sea-Land container was shielded with lead and held two inner metal containers which in turn held dry radioactive waste. The total activity involved was 255.49 millicuries. The accident occurred on an off-ramp leaving I-65 onto I-40. According to the driver's statements, a shifting load and wet weather contributed to the accident. The Tennessee Emergency Management Agency and Division of Radiological Health responded to the scene within the hour. Following the accident, the Sea-Land container was on end in the median several feet from the road. Upon righting the container, a fist-sized hole was discovered in the container skin. The shielding was not penetrated and surveys revealed that radiation levels were the same as those prior to shipment and that no contamination was evident. The Sea-Land container was transferred to another vehicle and moved to a local wrecker service impound yard. TVA sent teams from Browns Ferry to assist in the recovery. At least one team remained with the shipment at all times. There were only minor injuries to the driver. TVA intends to issue a press release. There is local press interest.

The NRC received initial notification of this event by the licensee at 11:12 p.m. (EDT) on February 12, 1992. Region II contacted State representatives and offered assistance. A Region II inspector was dispatched to the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant on February 13, 1992, to followup on the returned Sea-Land container.

This information is current as of 11:00 a.m. on February 13, 1992.

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