

June 27, 1984

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-84-40

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 Unit 1
Docket No. 50-259
Athens, Alabama

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

SUBJECT: LOCALIZED MEDIA INTEREST IN BROWNS FERRY INCIDENT

TVA declared an unusual event after one of 13 main steam relief valves opened at 6:57 a.m. (EDT) today when Browns Ferry Unit 1 was starting up after a four-day maintenance outage. Reactor pressure was 350 pounds per square inch. A manual reactor scr was initiated at 7:07 a.m. to stabilize the system.

The valve--a two-stage Target Rock safety relief valve--remained open until reactor pressure dropped to 100 pounds per square inch at 7:25 a.m. The unusual event was terminated when the relief valve reseated. The unit is proceeding to cold shutdown so that the defective relief valve can be replaced. The resident inspectors are reviewing the plant response to and investigation of the incident. Browns Ferry Unit 2 is operating at 60 percent power. Unit 3 is out of service for refueling.

Media interest has developed in the plant vicinity as the result of a TVA announcement on its daily telephone, taped plant status report. Region II does not plan a news release.

TVA informed the NRC headquarters incident response center of this occurrence at 7:10 a.m. today.

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