

October 26, 1984

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-84-74

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, Tennessee

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

SUBJECT: MEDIA INTEREST IN CONTROL ROD SPLINE BENT DURING REFUELING

A control rod spline on a single fuel assembly was bent during an incident which occurred at 9:15 a.m. (EDT) yesterday during refueling operations at Sequoyah Unit 2. Media interest has developed.

The fuel assembly had been moved through the transfer canal into the refueling cavity and was being raised from a horizontal to a vertical position by the upending device. The control rod spline hooked onto the upper part of the transfer canal flange and was bent approximately 60 degrees before pulling free from the flange. Apparently this happened because the transfer cart, which held the assembly, halted about three inches short of its normal stopping point, leaving the control rod end of the fuel assembly in the transfer canal.

Both visual and video camera examination revealed no apparent damage to the fuel assembly. Because of the bend in the control rod spline, TVA has decided not to try to transfer the assembly back into the spent fuel pool. However, TVA has developed a plan to straighten the spline, remove the rod from the assembly, and transfer the components separately to the spent fuel pool.

Region II has dispatched a specialist inspector to assist the resident inspector in reviewing the event and in following up on recovery operations.

Media interest has occurred. TVA will announce the incident on its daily taped nuclear plant status report today. Region II does not plan a news release.

The State of Tennessee has been informed.

TVA informed the headquarters duty officer of this incident at 10:30 p.m. on October 25.

This information is current as of 1:00 p.m. today.

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PNO-II-84-074 PDR

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