

August 15, 1984

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-84-49

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

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE CORE SPRAY LOOP OVERPRESSURIZATION

One core spray system loop of Browns Ferry Unit 1 may have been overpressurized yesterday while Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) was conducting a core spray logic function test. The unit was operating at 100 percent power. The incident did not affect operations.

The condition was found after TVA workers responded to a fire alarm which sounded at 10:45 a.m. (EDT) in the reactor building and ascertained that the alarm had been triggered by smoking paint on core spray piping. Further checking revealed that hot primary coolant had back-flowed into the loop because the outboard isolation valve was opened during the test and because the inboard isolation check valve had leaked. Reactor coolant system pressured was approximately 1050 pounds per square inch. One core spray pump seal was blown in the affected loop, and the 500-pounds-per-square-inch (psig) pressure gauges went off scale. It is not yet clear if the 500-psig relief valve in the core spray line functioned.

TVA declared the affected core spray loop inoperable. A second core spray loop is operable, but as a result of this incident, Browns Ferry Unit 1 has entered a seven-day limiting condition of operation. Region II is monitoring TVA's follow-up investigation and evaluation of the incident. Thirteen members of the responding fire brigade had clothing contamination, and three of the group received minor skin contamination.

Media interest is expected because TVA plans to announce the event on its daily taped nuclear plant status report. Region II does not plan a news release.

The State of Alabama has been informed.

TVA informed the NRC headquarters incident response center of this event at 1:20 p.m. yesterday. This information is current as 10:00 a.m. today.

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