

August 21, 1984

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-84-53

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

SUBJECT: SHUTDOWN GREATER THAN 48 HOURS

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) workers today will enter the containment of Sequoyah Unit 2 to check on the cause of an operational problem which led to TVA's decision to shut the unit down yesterday.

TVA declared an unusual event at 1:03 p.m. (EDT) yesterday after a pressure surge inside containment caused the ice condenser doors to open. The unit was operating at 100 percent power. At the time, TVA had under way a feed-and-bleed operation from the pressurizer relief tank to the waste disposal system because of a three-gallons-per-minute (gpm) pressurizer safety valve leak which began on August 17. Technical specifications permit known leakage of up to 10 gpm.

When the ice condenser doors opened, relief tank pressure rapidly dropped from 20 pounds per square inch (psi), and containment pressure increased from 0.2 to 0.36 psi. Water in the containment sump increased by several gallons. The unit began a controlled shutdown and was taken off line by 2:56 p.m., when the unusual event was ended.

TVA believes that either the pressurizer relief tank disc has ruptured (it is designed to rupture at 85 psi) or that a pressurizer safety valve tailpipe has broken. A TVA health physics evaluation indicated that both contamination and dose rate increases inside containment are insignificant. TVA estimates that repairs will be completed and that the unit can be restarted by August 25. The leaking safety valve will be replaced. Sequoyah Unit 1 is operating at 100 percent power.

Media interest has occurred, since TVA announced the event on its daily telephone taped plant status report. Region II is prepared to respond to inquiries.

The State of Tennessee has been informed.

TVA notified the NRC incident response center of this event by telephone at 1:28 p.m. yesterday. This information is current as of 11 a.m. today.

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