

January 18, 1985

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-85-08

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: UNSCHEDULED SHUTDOWN LONGER THAN 48 HOURS

Browns Ferry Unit 1, which has been shut down since a reactor trip on January 16, remains out of service while TVA investigates the cause of the occurrence.

A low water level signal in the reactor pressure vessel caused the reactor trip from 100 percent power. Main steam isolation valves closed automatically. Both the high pressure coolant injection (HPCI) and reactor core isolation cooling (RCIC) systems initiated. The HPCI system later shut itself off because of high vessel water level, and the RCIC subsequently tripped because of overspeed.

Two safety relief valves were manually opened for 15 to 20 seconds to control pressure. Although it initially appeared that one safety relief valve failed to close until the hand switch was cycled several times, TVA's post-trip investigation determined that the valve did not stick open. The acoustic monitor gave a false open indication because of a relay problem.

TVA believes the reactor trip may have been caused by a problem in the feedwater level control system, but is continuing to investigate. It was first thought the master feedwater controller had failed, but a bench test showed that this instrument functions properly. TVA has advised Region II that the unit will remain out of service until its investigation is completed.

Browns Ferry Unit 2 is shut down for refueling, and Unit 3 is operating at 100 percent power.

TVA has announced the Unit 1 shutdown on its daily nuclear power plant status report.

The State of Alabama has been informed.

This information is current as of 11 a.m. (EST) today.

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