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February 9, 1988

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-88-12

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: Duke Power Company
Catawba Units 1 and 2
Docket No. 50-413/50-414
Rock Hill, South Carolina

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

SUBJECT: SMALL UNPLANNED GASEOUS RELEASE

The licensee has informed the NRC that on February 8, between 5:30 and 7:00 a.m. (EST), approximately 2,200 cubic feet of radioactive gas stored in a waste gas decay tank was inadvertently released into a room in the auxiliary building and ventilated to the atmosphere.

The release consisted mostly of Xenon-133, an insoluble gas, with a total amount of radioactivity set at approximately 7.5 curies. The release was well within allowable limits and was not required to be reported to the NRC.

However, the licensee informed the NRC resident inspector and issued a press release.

Minor local media interest followed. Both the licensee and the NRC are prepared to respond to media inquiries.

The States of South and North Carolina have been informed.

The NRC received initial notification of this event on February 8 when the licensee notified the resident inspector at 9:00 a.m. (EST). The licensee then notified the headquarters Incident Response Center.

This information is current as of 10:00 a.m. (EST) on February 9.

CONTACT: B. Bonser - 242-4198

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