

August 17, 1977 J. R. [unclear]

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-77-145

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of an event of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff on this date.

Facility: Virginia Electric and Power Company
North Anna, Unit Nos. 1 and 2
(Docket Nos. 50-338 and 50-339)
Louisa County, Virginia

Subject: REANALYSIS OF NPSH FOR RECIRCULATION* SPRAY PUMPS

Region II (Atlanta) received two press inquiries on August 16, 1977, regarding adequacy of the net positive suction head (NPSH) available to the recirculation spray pumps inside containment following a loss of coolant accident (LOCA). The reporters were following up on a press release issued by VEPCO on August 16, 1977. North Anna Unit Nos. 1 and 2 are under construction.

VEPCO has been informed by Stone and Webster (AE) that a reanalysis of containment pressure behavior during a loss of coolant accident indicated that adequate NPSH may not exist for the recirculation spray pumps. The latest analysis found that less core injection water would flash to steam, resulting in lower containment pressure. This condition results in an available NPSH for the recirculation spray pumps of approximately 4 to 6 feet of water compared to the required head of 15 feet at normal flow. Stone & Webster is evaluating the matter further to verify the calculations.

Region II does not plan to issue a news release at this time. The State of Virginia has been informed.

As of August 16, 1977, Region II was informed by VEPCO that this issue may involve, to a lesser degree, Surry Unit Nos. 1 and 2 which are operating. The Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation was informed on August 16, 1977.

Region II first received telephone notification of the above analysis from VEPCO on August 8, 1977. VEPCO is submitting a written report to the NRC in accordance with 10 CFR 50.55(e). The issue has generic implications for North Anna Unit Nos. 3 and 4.

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