

June 9, 1988

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-OSP-88-010

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 all that is known by the OSP staff on this date.

FACILITY: Tennessee Valley Authority
Sequoyah Unit 2
Docket No. 50-328
Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee

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

SUBJECT: SEQUOYAH UNIT 2 REACTOR TRIPS

At 1319 EDT on June 8, Unit 2 tripped from 15% power on a lo-lo steam generator level in SG #2. The trip occurred during startup when the operators attempted to place the main feed pumps in automatic speed control. Operator error was determined to be the root cause of the trip. The feed pump speed controller was placed in automatic before the controller had stabilized properly, which caused the feed pump speed to be reduced to minimum. This in turn resulted in feed pressure being reduced below steam generator pressure and a subsequent loss of feed flow. Attempts to recover from this condition initiated an oscillatory feed flow and steam generator level transient which subsequently resulted in the reactor trip. All systems functioned as required, and the plant was brought to Hot Standby (Mode 3).

Unit 2 was returned to critical at 2300 on June 8. At 0512 EDT on June 9, the Unit again tripped from 17% power on a lo-lo steam generator level in SG #2. The trip occurred when SG level oscillations began while the feed control valves were still in manual. The oscillations were caused by feedwater heater strings "A" and "B" isolating due to heater level control problems. When the heaters isolated, the feed pump began experiencing suction pressure changes, and this resulted in a temporary loss of feed flow. Again, attempts to recover from this condition initiated a feedwater flow and steam generator level transient which subsequently resulted in the reactor trip. There were no anomalies associated with the trip, and all systems functioned as required. The plant is presently in Mode 3.

OSP has notified TVA by letter dated June 9, 1988, that prior to resumption of startup activities, a meeting must be held between the senior management of the NRC and TVA to discuss each of the five reactor trips that have occurred during Sequoyah's restart effort, the causes of the trips, and the adequacy of corrective actions taken. This meeting will be held at White Flint when TVA determines it is ready to discuss the events, probably during the week of June 13, 1988.

CONTACT: S. Richardson (301) 492-3289

Distribution: see next page

IE34
0/1

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-OSP-88-010

DISTRIBUTION

5520:

Chairman Zech - 1NRC1718/Leadop
Commissioner Roberts - 1NRC1718/Leadop
Commissioner Bernthal - 1NRC1718/Leadop
Commissioner Carr - 1NRC1718/Leadop
Commissioner Rogers - 1NRC1718/Leadop
SECY - 1NRC1718/Leadop
CA - 1NRC1718/Leadop
PA - 1NRC02/Leadop
ARM - NRCRM/Brown
AOED - NRCRMPN
Hqs Oper. Office - NRCRMPN
NRR - 1NRC1112/Berean
OE - 1NRC0708/Summers
NMSS - 1NRC0506/Leadop
OGC - 1NRC1516/Leadop
SP - 1NRC0304/SGindes
EDO - 1NRC1718/Leadop
DEORO - 1NRC1718/Leadop
GPA - 1NRC1718/Leadop

Mail:

ACRS
DCS
OIA-MNBB-8607
OI - 3E4-DLewis
OSP

Regional Offices

Region I - RI/Leadop
Region II - RII/Leadop
Sequoyah Resident Inspector
Licensee: TVA
Region III - RIII/Leadop
Region IV - RIV/Leadop
Region V - RV/Leadop