

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-91-74B

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  
Oconee, Unit 3  
Docket No. 50-287  
Seneca, SC

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

SUBJECT: REACTOR COOLANT SYSTEM LEAK UPDATE

Unit 3 continues to remain in cold shutdown following the declaration of Alert at 0214 on November 23, 1991, due to a leak in the reactor coolant system (RCS).

The reactor coolant system was depressurized and vented, and the total leakage was approximately 70,000 gallons of radioactive water of which 47,800 gallons have been transferred to the radwaste building. The RCS leak was identified to be coming from a separated compression fitting on a 3/4 inch reactor vessel level indication system pressure and level sensing line downstream of a flow restricting valve. The sensing line is located at the top of the "A" steam generator hot leg.

After reaching cold shutdown at 1720 on November 23, the licensee began evaluating the conditions inside the containment. During the first entry into containment at about 1530 November 25, 1991, the location of the leak was verified.

Concentrations of airborne radioactive material in the containment continue to be reduced by purging. Concentrations of noble gas and radiiodine have been reduced below 1.0 and 5.7 MPC respectively. Containment entry was made by three separate licensee teams wearing appropriate protective clothing on the afternoon of November 25, 1991, to assess damage and evaluate areas needing decontamination. Preliminary evaluations show no significant internal radiation exposure as a result of the entry with the maximum external dose of approximately 40 millirem.

As of November 26, 1991, a total of 7800 gallons of treated water had been released from the plant to Lake Hartwell. As of this morning, an additional 27,000 gallons of contaminated water has been treated and is available for discharge. Preliminary calculations by licensee representatives show that discharges of all the water, after treatment, would result in wholebody radiation doses of less than 0.2 millirem.

Licensee and State of South Carolina off-site environmental monitoring teams have not detected any airborne radioactive material above background.

Throughout the purging, Region II has continued to communicate with the State of South Carolina. NRC resident and specialist inspectors have continued to monitor the licensee's activities throughout the event.

This information is current as of 11:00 a.m. on November 26, 1991.

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