

August 20, 1987

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-87-60

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: Virginia Electric & Power Company  
North Anna Unit 1  
Docket No. 50-338  
Mineral, Virginia

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

SUBJECT: "HOT PARTICLE" CONTAMINATION ON CONTRACT HEALTH PHYSICS TECHNICIAN

The licensee is investigating circumstances associated with the contamination of a contract health physics technician by a microscopic particle (hot particle) of high radioactivity.

The technician had been providing coverage for eddy current testing and had made a least one entry into Unit 1's "A" steam generator when the contamination was detected on July 19 at 9:00 p.m. (EDT).

The particle was recovered from the skin of her left shoulder blade and determined to be 1.6 microcuries of Cobalt-60. Based upon stay time, the licensee calculated conservatively that the technician received a 21.5-rem skin dose. Her prior quarterly exposure was 125 millirem, giving a total of 21.631 rem (to the skin) for the quarter. The quarterly skin dose limit is 7.5 rem.

The licensee report that a whole body count indicated no intake of radioactivity. The investigation is continuing, and the technician has been restricted from the Radiation Control Zone.

An NRC radiation specialist from Region II will be on the site next week to review circumstances associated with this event, along with the licensee's corrective action.

The Commonwealth of Virginia has been informed.

The NRC received initial notification of this event by telephone from the licensee to Region II at 11:00 a.m. (EDT) on August 20.

This information is current as of 3:00 p.m. (EDT) on August 20.

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