

March 23, 1989

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-ADSP-89-01

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 ADSP staff on this date.

FACILITY: Tennessee Valley Authority
Browns Ferry Unit 2
Docket Nos. 50-259, 50-260 and 50-296
Soddy Daisy, Tennessee

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

SUBJECT: DETERIORATED NUCLEAR INSTRUMENTATION CABLES AT BROWNS FERRY

The licensee identified on March 17, 1989, that various cables in the Nuclear Instrumentation System had become deteriorated in that the rubber insulation is brittle and cracked with portions of the conductor exposed. The problem was identified in General Electric supplied power cables with Buna-S rubber insulation which are used in the Source, Intermediate, and Average Power Range Instrumentation Systems at Browns Ferry. These cables are being replaced with properly qualified cable. The same type of cable may have been used on other Browns Ferry, General Electric supplied nuclear steam supply system components. Based on preliminary information received by TVA from General Electric on March 21, 1989, 17 other BWRs built between the late 1960s and 1971 also have this type cable. According to GE no prior problems with this type cable have been identified. GE has obtained a sample of the cable for further analysis to identify the reason for the deterioration and will be providing information to INPO on the issue. A manual search of records at Browns Ferry is in progress to determine if any other components are affected.

This PN is being issued for information purposes only.

This information is current as of 11:00 p.m. CST on March 22.

Contact: W. C. Bearden - 205-729-6196

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