

EJH

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

February 22, 1978

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-78-36

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 as of this date.

FACILITY: Virginia Electric and Power Company
North Anna, Unit No. 1
Docket No. 50-338
Louisa County, Virginia

SUBJECT: INCORRECT FLOW ORIFICES INSTALLED IN RECIRCULATION SPRAY PIPING

On December 21, an IE inspector found that 3000 gallons per minute (gpm) flow orifices were installed in the discharge piping of containment recirculation spray (RS) pumps, instead of the specified 2000 gpm flow orifices (PNO-77-225 dated 12/22/77). Orifices calculated to provide 2000 gpm flow were installed the same day. The Architect Engineer, Stone and Webster (S&W), informed VEPCO on February 17, that the specified 2000 gpm orifices were incorrectly sized initially, due to a misunderstanding between S&W and Bingham-Willamette, the pump vendor. An error in application of the vendor's pump head curve introduced a 43-foot pump head error, resulting in the orifices being too small. Pump flow is estimated to be 1000 to 1500 gpm instead of the required 2000 gpm. The licensee expects to have the proper orifices installed about February 24.

Media interest is anticipated due to current interest in the North Anna facility. A news release is not planned by the licensee nor NRC. The Commonwealth of Virginia has been notified.

Region II (Atlanta) received initial notification of this occurrence by telephone from station management at 9:15 a.m. on February 21. This information is current as of 11:30 a.m. on February 22.

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NARY NOTIFICATION