

March 21, 2013

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE - PNO-II-13-004

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. Some of the information may not yet be fully verified or evaluated by the Region II staff. (Atlanta, Ga)

Facility

Browns Ferry, Unit 1
Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)
Athens, Al
Docket: 50-259

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event
 Alert
 Site Area Emergency
 General Emergency
 Not Applicable

**SUBJECT: UNPLANNED SHUTDOWN GREATER THAN 72 HOURS DUE TO REACTOR
FEEDWATER HEATER LEVEL CONTROL LINE LEAK**

At 4:02 a.m. [CDT] on March 19, 2013, the Browns Ferry Unit 1 reactor was manually scrammed due to lowering main condenser vacuum. The cause of the loss of vacuum was a significant leak on the 1C feedwater heater level control line near the penetration to the main condenser. Condenser vacuum was approaching the turbine trip setpoint, at which time the reactor was manually scrammed. Condenser vacuum recovered following the scram. Reactor pressure was controlled by the main turbine bypass valves and reactor level was controlled by reactor feedwater pumps. In response to the scram, all plant equipment responded as designed. The NRC resident inspectors continue to monitor the licensee's actions for plant recovery and startup. This preliminary notification is being made because the Unit 1 outage will take more than 72 hours while the licensee makes repairs and prepares to restart the plant.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only and no further action by the staff is anticipated. Region II received the information from the licensee via notification of the Resident Inspector and Event Notification (48829). The state of Alabama has been notified via telephone. The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee, and is current as of 8:45 a.m. on March 21, 2013.

Contact: Craig Kontz
(404) 997-4515
Craig.Kontz@nrc.gov

Eugene Guthrie
(404)997-4662
Eugene.Guthrie@nrc.gov