

December 12, 2005

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE** PNO-II-05-013

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 Region II staff (Atlanta, Georgia) on this date.

**Facility**

Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.  
Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Unit 2  
Waynesboro, Georgia  
Dockets/License: 50-425/NPF-81

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

Subject: VOGTLE UNIT 2 SHUTDOWN TO REPAIR RHR PIPE LEAK

At 4:33 a.m., EST on December 9, 2005, the licensee shutdown Unit 2 to evaluate an unidentified Reactor Coolant System (RCS) leak inside containment. Prior to the shutdown, the licensee had indications of increasing total RCS leak rate (0.286 gpm on December 8, 2005, at 4:29 p.m., and 0.337 gpm at 8:20 p.m.) Additionally, containment atmospheric radiation levels, containment pressure, and moisture indicated an increasing trend. At 10:40 p.m., on December 8, 2005, upon containment entry, the licensee's inspection team identified no leakage outside the bioshield. At 3:44 p.m., on December 9, 2005, after entering Mode 3, the licensee's inspection team entered the bioshield and reported pressure boundary leakage at a welded connection where a 3/4 inch bypass line is welded upstream of the Residual Heat Removal (RHR) loop suction valve 2HV8701B off the loop 1 RCS hot leg. In accordance with Technical Specification 3.4.13, which does not allow any pressure boundary leakage, the unit was placed in Mode 5 and repairs were commenced.

The unit will remain shutdown until a full American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) code repair is made to the RHR bypass line.

The resident inspector was made aware of the increased leak rate on December 9, 2005, at approximately 2:00 a.m. Media inquiries have not been made and the licensee currently has no plans for a press release. The state of Georgia has not been notified.

This information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 10:00 a.m., on December 12, 2005.

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