

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

February 21, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-80-30

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

SUBJECT: INADVERTENT REACTOR TRIP

The Unit 1 reactor was inadvertently tripped at 1:39 p.m. on February 20 when the input breaker to non-safety related rod drive motor/generator (M/G) set 1-1 was opened. Based on the location of the breaker as well as other indications in the general area, the licensee has concluded that the breaker was accidentally tripped by custodial persons working in the area. The second rod drive M/G set (M/G set 1-2) was not available because its output breaker had been racked out since rod drop timing tests prior to unit startup. All plant systems responded properly to the reactor trip, pressurizer level was never lost and greater than 42°F. subcooling was always maintained. A Safety Injection was not initiated. Upon restarting reactor coolant pump C in preparation for returning the plant to power operation, a high frequency mechanical noise was picked up from the C Steam Generator on the inplant noise monitoring system. The noise disappeared when the pump was stopped. Upon restarting the C reactor coolant pump a second time, the same noise appeared on the C Steam Generator, disappeared after several minutes, reappeared on the noise monitor channel for the A Steam Generator and then disappeared. The licensee stopped the C reactor coolant pump and requested vendor representatives to be on site before they restarted the pump. The vendor representatives have completed an initial set of measurements on the noise source and preliminary findings are that multiple loose parts exist in the reactor vessel upper head area and the primary side of the C steam generator. The vendor and the licensee are planning additional tests to confirm the preliminary findings.

VEPCO has issued a press release regarding the facility shutdown. The NRC does not plan to issue a press release. The Commonwealth of Virginia has been notified.

Region II (Atlanta) received notification of this occurrence by the Resident Inspector from the site at 2:30 p.m. on February 20. This information is current as of 10:30 a.m. on February 21.

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