

December 13, 1985

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-85-118

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 the Region II staff on this date.

FACILITY: Tennessee Valley Authority  
Browns Ferry Units 1, 2, & 3  
Docket No. 50-259/260/296  
Athens, Alabama

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

SUBJECT: SMALL OIL SPILL FROM SHUTDOWN UNITS

The licensee reported on December 12 an oil spill from the Browns Ferry nuclear power plant into the Tennessee River (Lake Wheeler). The licensee has isolated the source of the spill, which appears to have occurred when a site glass failed on the traveling screen gear box on the cold water pump for the plant's bio-thermal facility.

The licensee initiated immediate cleanup action of the spill which had resulted in the appearance of an "oil sheen" (thin oil slick) in the river.

All three Browns Ferry units have been shut down for several months while the licensee conducts environmental qualification, maintenance, and management realignment activities.

The State of Alabama and the National Response Center have been notified of this event.

This Preliminary Notification is being sent for information purposes only.

This information is current as of 2:00 p.m on Friday, December 13.

Contact: W. Cline, 242-2665

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Licensee: 4:49  
(Reactor Licensees)  
Applicable Resident Site 4:46

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