

February 10, 2005

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-05-003

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 IV, Arlington, Texas, staff on this date.

**Facility**

South Texas Project Operating Company  
South Texas Project - Unit 2  
Wadsworth, Texas 77483  
Docket:50-499  
License No.:NPF-80

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

SUBJECT: SHUTDOWN TO REPAIR REACTOR COOLANT SYSTEM LEAK

DESCRIPTION: On February 9, 2005, South Texas Project Unit 2 reactor was shut down following identification of a small leak from a vent pipe connected to safety injection system piping inside the containment structure. This pipe is connected to the reactor coolant system.

The licensee identified the leak on February 9, 2005, by using a robot to inspect components inside the containment structure following the receipt of increased readings on the containment particulate radiation monitor and an increase in calculated reactor coolant system leak rate from 0.09 to 0.13 gallons per minute. The leak was considered to be unisolable reactor coolant system, pressure boundary leakage, and a reactor shutdown as required by Technical Specifications was performed. The shutdown was commenced at 12:22 p.m. and the unit was taken offline at 5:42 p.m. on February 9. The unit has been cooled to Mode 5 conditions. The licensee is evaluating repair methods.

The licensee's inspection following the shutdown identified a leak at the upstream side of the first isolation valve on the vent pipe. The licensee issued a press release and both the licensee and NRC have responded to press inquiries.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the licensee 12:30 p.m. on February 9, 2005. The state of Texas has been notified by telephone.

The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 1:00 p.m. on February 10, 2005.

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML

CONTACTS: William Johnson, 817-860-8148, wdj@nrc.gov  
Tom Farnholtz, 817-860-8243, trf@nrc.gov