

January 9, 2013

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE - PNO-IV-13-001

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. Some information is as initially received without verification or evaluation by the Region IV, Arlington, Texas staff.

Facility

South Texas Project Nuclear Operating
Company
South Texas Project Unit 2
P.O. Box 289
Wadsworth, TX 77483
Docket: 50-499
License No. NPF-80

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT UNIT 2 REACTOR TRIP

DESCRIPTION:

On January 8, 2013, at 4:40 p.m. CST an automatic reactor trip occurred at South Texas Project Unit 2. The trip resulted from a fire in main transformer 2A. South Texas Project Unit 2 declared a Notice of Unusual Event (NOUE) at 4:55 p.m. CST due to the fire which damaged equipment necessary for normal plant operation. The fire in the main transformer resulted in a partial loss of offsite power. The fire was extinguished at 4:56 p.m. CST. All safety systems responded as expected and emergency diesel generators automatically powered safety-related equipment. The unit lost power to the non-safety related electrical busses that supplied the reactor coolant pumps, thus the reactor was cooled by natural circulation.

At 7:47 p.m. CST on January 8, 2013, South Texas Project terminated the NOUE after verification that no fire hazards existed, plant conditions stabilized, and offsite power was restored. Upon restoration of offsite power the emergency diesel generators were secured and returned to a standby condition. Plant personnel are continuing to investigate the cause of the failure and determine necessary repairs. The plant is in a safe condition in hot standby with reactor coolant pump 2D providing forced circulation.

The resident inspectors responded to the control room during the event to monitor the licensee's response. The NRC entered monitoring mode at 5:15 p.m. CST. The NRC exited monitoring mode at 8:15 p.m. CST. The NRC continues to monitor licensee corrective actions and root cause determinations of the trip, and will evaluate them prior to plant restart.

Unit 1 remained stable throughout the event and continues to operate at 100 percent power.

The State of Texas has been informed. The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 1:00 p.m. CST, on January 9, 2013.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only, and will be updated as more information becomes available.

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML13009A362

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