



Entergy Operations, Inc.
17265 River Road
Killona, LA 70066
Tel 504 739 6379

Everett P. Perkins, Jr.
Director, Nuclear Safety Assurance
Waterford 3

W3F1-2000-0040
A4.05
PR

April 11, 2000

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

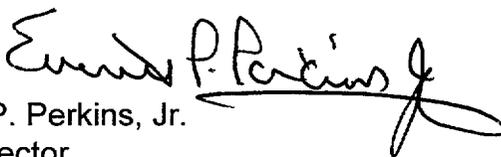
Subject: Waterford 3 SES
Docket No. 50-382
License No. NPF-38
Reporting of Security Incident Report

Gentlemen:

Attached is Security Incident Report (SIR) 00-S01-00 for Waterford Steam Electric Station Unit 3. This report provides details of a safeguard system vulnerability that was created when security personnel were unable to respond to perimeter alarms due to a tornado warning. This condition is being reported pursuant to 10CFR73, App. G (I)(c) as a vulnerability in our program that could have allowed unauthorized or undetected access to a protected area for which approved compensatory measures were not employed.

This letter does not contain commitments. If you have any questions, please contact R.C. Fron at (504) 739-6340 or D.C. Madere at (504) 739-6481.

Very truly yours,


E.P. Perkins, Jr.
Director,
Nuclear Safety Assurance

EPP/DCM/ssf
Attachment

IE74

Reporting of Security Incident Report
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cc: E.W. Merschoff, (NRC Region IV)
N. Kalyanam, (NRC-NRR)
A.L. Garibaldi
P. Lewis - INPO Records Center
J. Smith
N.S. Reynolds
NRC Resident Inspectors Office
Louisiana DEQ/Surveillance Division

Estimated burden per response to comply with this mandatory information collection request: 50.0 hrs. Reported lessons learned are incorporated into the licensing process and fed back to industry. Forward comments regarding burden estimate to the Records Management Branch (T-6 F33), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and to the Paperwork Reduction Project (3150-0104), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. If an information collection does not display a currently valid OMB control number, the NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, the information collection.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)

FACILITY NAME (1)

Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3

DOCKET NUMBER (2)

05000-382

PAGE (3)

1 of 4

TITLE (4)

Safeguard System Vulnerability During Adverse Weather

EVENT DATE (5)			LER NUMBER (6)			REPORT DATE (7)			OTHER FACILITIES INVOLVED (8)	
MONTH	DAY	YEAR	YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER	MONTH	DAY	YEAR	FACILITY NAME	DOCKET NUMBER
03	15	00	00	S01	00	04	11	00	N/A	N/A
									N/A	N/A
OPERATING MODE (9)		1		THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR § (Check one or more) (11)						
POWER LEVEL (10)		100		20.2201(b)	20.2203(a)(2)(v)	50.73(a)(2)(i)	50.73(a)(2)(viii)			
				20.2203(a)(2)(i)	20.2203(a)(3)(i)	50.73(a)(2)(ii)	50.73(a)(2)(x)			
				20.405(a)(1)(ii)	20.2203(a)(3)(ii)	50.73(a)(2)(iii)	X	73.71		
				20.2203(a)(2)(ii)	20.2203(a)(4)	50.73(a)(2)(iv)	OTHER			
				20.2203(a)(2)(iii)	50.36(c)(1)	50.73(a)(2)(v)	Specify in Abstract below or in NRC Form 366A			
				20.2203(a)(2)(iv)	50.36(c)(2)	50.73(a)(2)(vii)				

LICENSEE CONTACT FOR THIS LER (12)

NAME

Robert Fron, Security Superintendent

TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code)

(504)-739-6340

COMPLETE ONE LINE FOR EACH COMPONENT FAILURE DESCRIBED IN THIS REPORT (13)

CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANUFACTURER	REPORTABLE TO EPIX	CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANUFACTURER	REPORTABLE TO EPIX

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT EXPECTED (14)

YES (If yes, complete EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE)	X	NO	EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE (15)	MONTH	DAY	YEAR
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ABSTRACT (Limit to 1400 spaces, i. e., approximately 15 single-spaced typewritten lines) (16)

On March 15, 2000, at 1511 hours, a safeguard system vulnerability was created when security personnel were unable to respond to security perimeter alarms around the Protected Area due to a tornado warning for St. Charles Parish and an approaching severe thunderstorm. The perimeter alarms were caused by heavy rainfall. The Shift Manager authorized security personnel not to respond to the alarms due to the approaching dangerous weather conditions. Although plant procedures did not detail compensatory actions in the event of severe/adverse weather, Security personnel established compensatory measures at all doors leading into the Vital Area in order to verify all entries into the Vital Area. A one-hour notification was made at 1558 hours pursuant to 10CRF73.71(b)(1). The threat of severe weather passed and the restoration of alarm response to the Protected Area was re-established at 1535 hours. At 1739 hours, security personnel completed actions to verify that no undetected or unauthorized access to the plant had occurred.

This condition did not affect any system, structure or component in the plant. This event is not considered a Safety System Functional Failure (SSFF).

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FACILITY NAME (1)	DOCKET (2)	LER NUMBER (6)		PAGE (3)
Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3	05000-382	YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER
		00	S01	00
2 OF 4				

TEXT (If more space is required, use additional copies of NRC Form 366A) (17)

REPORTABLE OCCURRENCE

On March 15, 2000, at 1511 hours, a safeguard system vulnerability was created when security personnel were unable to respond to security perimeter alarms around the Protected Area due to a tornado warning for St. Charles Parish and an approaching severe Thunderstorm. Since procedures did not address actions to be taken during severe/adverse weather, Security personnel were unable to establish approved compensatory actions within 10 minutes as required by procedures. Accordingly, this event was reported within 1 hour via the Emergency Notification System and is being followed up with this report pursuant to 10CFR73, App. G(I)(c) as a vulnerability in our program that could have allowed unauthorized or undetected access to a protected area for which approved compensatory measures were not employed.

INITIAL CONDITIONS

At the time of the event, on March 15, 2000, the plant was operating in Mode 1 at approximately 100% reactor power. No major systems, structures or components were out of service specific to this condition. The plant was under a tornado warning.

EVENT DESCRIPTION

On March 15, 2000 at 1501 hours, in accordance with Security procedures, the Control Room Shift Manager authorized Security personnel to stop responding to alarms within the Protected Area. This was due to a tornado warning from St. Charles Parish and an approaching severe thunderstorm. There was a tornado spotted in the town of Des Allemands, Louisiana heading North, toward Waterford 3 at that time.

At 1508 hours the Security Department established compensatory measures at all doors leading into the Vital Area in order to verify all entries into the Vital Area. Although these actions were not pre-approved via plant procedures, the actions were deemed appropriate for the condition.

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		00	S01	00	

TEXT (If more space is required, use additional copies of NRC Form 366A) (17)

At 1511 hours the Security and Operations departments initiated a one-hour report to the NRC, due to exceeding 10 minutes for perimeter alarm assessment. The event was initially reported under 10CFR73.71(b)(1) and 10CFR50.54 (x) via the Emergency Notification System. The call was made at 1558 hours (CST).

The threat of severe weather passed and the restoration of alarm response to the Protected Area was re-established at 1535 hours.

Primary Access Point operations were not affected by the severe weather – normal keycard controls remained in effect. The Security Computer remained operational during this time.

There was no loss of video cameras during this time period, however there were numerous perimeter zone alarms received due to weather conditions at the time.

There were no unaccounted for door alarms received during the time period.

At 1604 hours the Security department initiated a Protected Area search to ascertain that there were no unauthorized personnel in the Protected Area. Areas searched included all buildings outside the Vital Area and inside the Protected Area, the turbine building and Reactor Auxiliary Building rooftops and the west and east cooling tower areas.

At 1705 hours the Protected Area search was completed – there were no unauthorized personnel or unaccounted for alarms.

Compensatory measures were secured at 1739 hours, and normal security operations were established.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)

FACILITY NAME (1)	DOCKET (2)	LER NUMBER (6)			PAGE (3)
Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3	05000-382	YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER	4 OF 4
		00	S01	00	

TEXT (If more space is required, use additional copies of NRC Form 366A) (17)

At 1853 hours (CST) Waterford Licensing personnel issued a clarification to the NRC one-hour report – clarifying that the report was per 10CFR73.71 only and not per 10CFR50.54(x).

CAUSAL FACTORS

The Root Cause of the event is inadequate procedural guidance. At the time of the event, Security procedures did not address compensatory actions to be taken in the event of severe/adverse weather. These procedures described routine actions to be taken in response to alarms. Security personnel were unable to implement these routine compensatory actions within the Protected Area due to the severe weather. Although the guidance was not proceduralized, Operations and Security personnel did take appropriate actions for the condition.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Security procedures PS-016-102, "Security Response to Plant Emergency Conditions" and PS-010-104, "Security Reporting Requirements" were revised to include compensatory actions for adverse/severe weather conditions. Any future events of this nature will be logged on the Safeguards Event Log.

SAFETY SIGNIFICANCE

Following the severe weather, Security performed a search of the Protected Area to ascertain that there were no unauthorized personnel in the Protected Area. There were no unaccounted for door alarms during this period. Security personnel were pulled back into the Vital Area for safety reasons. Accordingly, this event did not compromise the safety of the public or plant personnel and is of low safety significance. This event is not considered a Safety System Functional Failure (SSFF).

SIMILAR EVENTS

None