

July 16, 2001

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-01-031

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 staff on this date.

**Facility**

Entergy Operations, Inc.  
Waterford 3  
Killona, La 70066  
Docket: 50-382  
License: NPF-38

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

SUBJECT: LARGE HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL RELEASE IN VICINITY OF WATERFORD 3

DESCRIPTION:

At 9:42 p.m. (CDT) on July 15, 2001, control room personnel received notification via the Taft Industrial Complex (TIC) radio that an anhydrous ammonia leak was in progress at the Koch Nitrogen river loading dock located less than one mile east south east of the Waterford 3 site. As a result of this leak, Koch Nitrogen recommended to the St. Charles Parish Emergency Operations Center (EOC) that River Road (LA 18) be closed between LA 3142 and the Waterford site. At 9:45 p.m.(CDT), Waterford 3 entered the site procedure for toxic chemical release and placed the control room ventilation system in the isolate mode. Koch personnel notified the Waterford 3 control room at 9:54 p.m. (CDT) of a vapor cloud in the vicinity of the ship side of the levee. Based on these reports, the licensee declared an ALERT condition at 9:58 p.m. (CDT) due to a toxic chemical release (large hazard) and instructed site personnel, including security field personnel, operators and outside fire watches, to shelter.

A slight odor of ammonia was detected on site at 10:47 p.m. (CDT) Samples taken on site at 11:53 p.m. (CDT) by the licensee's chemistry department indicated no detectable ammonia. The parish reopened River Road (LA 18) at 11:56 p.m. (CDT). At 11:57 p.m. (CDT), control room personnel were notified by Koch Nitrogen that a slight leak remained on the ship but that there was no detectable concentration outside of the leak. Koch Nitrogen was utilizing a water fog to contain the small anhydrous ammonia leak to the ship.

The licensee continued to monitor the situation and determined that, based on reports and samples taken on site, facility ventilation systems could be returned to their normal lineups. This action was taken, site security personnel returned to their posts, and outside activities were resumed.

The ALERT condition was terminated at 2 a.m. (CDT) on July 16 based on the toxic chemical release posing no further threat to the site and no detectable ammonia on site. The leak was not terminated but was contained and controlled such that no further licensee action was required.

The plant continued to operate at full power throughout this event.

The Region IV Incident Response Center was activated in the monitoring phase of normal mode at 11:42 p.m. (CDT) and remained active for the duration of the event (2:15 a.m. (CDT)) following the licensee downgrading from an Alert status. The resident inspectors were first notified by the licensee of the event and, after evaluating area conditions, the senior resident inspector responded to the site using an alternate route.

The state of Louisiana has been informed.

The NRC plans to issue a press release.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the headquarters duty officer at 10:32 a.m. (CDT) and then the resident inspectors. Region IV has informed EDO, NRR, and PA.

This information has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 4:55 a.m. (CDT), July 16, 2001.

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