

Power Reactor			Event Number: 39754			
FACILITY: SOUTH TEXAS		REGION: 4	NOTIFICATION DATE: 04/13/2003			
UNIT: [1] [] []	STATE: TX	NOTIFICATION TIME: 19:06[EDT]				
RXTYPE: [1] W-4-LP, [2] W-4-LP		EVENT DATE: 04/13/2003		EVENT TIME: 16:56[CDT]		
NRC NOTIFIED BY: RON GIBBS			LAST UPDATE DATE: 04/13/2003			
HQ OPS OFFICER: STEVE SANDIN			PERSON ORGANIZATION			
EMERGENCY CLASS: NON EMERGENCY		DAVID LOVELESS R4				
10 CFR SECTION: ADEG 50.72(b)(3)(ii)(A) DEGRADED CONDITION						
UNIT	SCRAM CODE	RX CRIT	INIT PWR	INIT RX MODE	CURR PWR	CURR RX MODE
1	N	N	0	Cold Shutdown	0	Cold Shutdown

EVENT TEXT

REACTOR VESSEL BOTTOM HEAD DEGRADED CONDITION

"On 4/12/2003, during the Unit 1 11th (1RE11) refueling outage, an inspection was performed of the vessel bottom head. This bare metal inspection identified a potential leak indication at the head to penetration interface for Bottom Mounted Instrumentation (BMI) penetrations 1 and 46. There was a small amount of residue around the outer circumference of the BMI penetrations. No wastage was observed. Samples of the residue were taken and the area was cleaned with demineralized water. Chemical sample results available as of 1300 on 4/13/2003 are not conclusive; however, they have confirmed that the residue found at the Penetration 46 contains boron, indicating that this could be an RCS leak. The residue removed from Penetration 1 was characterized as 'gummy' and its composition is still under investigation. Additional exams are planned to confirm the likely origin of the residue and to determine the scope of any repairs. There has been no indication of RCS leakage observed at the BMI penetrations during previous operational cycles. This notification is being made in accordance with 10 CFR 50.72(b)(3)(ii)(A)."

Unit 1 will remain in mode 5 until appropriate corrective actions are identified. The licensee informed the NRC resident inspector.