

July 15, 2003

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-03-035

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

STP Nuclear Operating Company
South Texas Project Electric Generating
Station, Units 1 and 2
Wadsworth, Texas 77483
Docket:50-498; 50-499 License No.NPF-76;
NPF-80

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: EFFECTS OF HURRICANE CLAUDETTE AT SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT

DESCRIPTION:

Hurricane Claudette made landfall near the South Texas Project this morning. Maximum sustained winds at the STP site were around 63 mph. The NRC entered the Monitoring Phase of the Normal Mode at 8:25 a.m. CDT and has staffed its Incident Response Center to track the hurricane and monitor licensee activities. Two inspectors from the regional office are in the plant's Technical Support Center monitoring the licensee response. A Region IV representative has been dispatched to the FEMA Regional Operations Center in Denton, Texas. Unit 1 is shut down and defueled. Unit 2 is operating at full power. All safety systems are operable. The electrical grid is stable and no challenges to the grid are predicted.

At 8:55 a.m. CDT on July 15, 2003, the licensee declared a Notice of Unusual Event because of the impact of high winds on some security systems.

It is anticipated that the winds from Hurricane Claudette will subside later in the day, allowing the licensee to identify, assess, and address any plant impacts stemming from the storm.

The state of Texas has been informed.

The licensee intends to issue a press release. Region IV received notification of this occurrence by telephone from Gary Parkey, Vice President, South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company at 8:55 a.m. CDT on July 15, 2003. Region IV has informed EDO, NRR, and PA.

This information has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 12:45 p.m. on July 15, 2003.

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