

July 16, 2003

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

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: UPDATE ON EFFECTS OF HURRICANE CLAUDETTE AT SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT

DESCRIPTION:

Hurricane Claudette caused only minimal damage at the South Texas Project during its passage on July 15, 2003. There was minor damage to outbuildings, two parking lot lighting standards were blown over, and the primary meteorological tower lost its wind speed and direction function. The 138 KV offsite power line was also lost. Offsite power sources required by plant Technical Specifications remained available. Several emergency notification sirens were not functional after the storm passed but there remained three backup methods of public notification. The storm did not affect plant operation and grid voltage remained stable. An NRC inspector performed a site walkdown to independently verify conditions shortly after the hurricane passed the site. County sheriff personnel verified that evacuation routes were passable.

The licensee exited the Notice of Unusual Event at 4:23 p.m. CDT after restoring compliance with 10 CFR 73.51(d)(3). The NRC ended the Monitoring Phase of the Normal Mode at 5:57 p.m. CDT.

The state of Texas has been informed.

Region IV has informed EDO, NRR, and PA.

This information has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 6 p.m. CDT on July 15, 2003.

CONTACTS: William D. Johnson - (817) 860-8148
Arthur T. Howell III - (817) 860-8248