



South Texas Project Electric Generating Station P.O. Box 289 Wadsworth, Texas 77483

September 15, 2003  
NOC-AE-03001595  
File No.: G25  
10CFR50.73

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attention: Document Control Desk  
One White Flint North  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852

South Texas Project  
Unit 1  
Docket Nos. STN 50-498, STN 50-499  
Licensee Event Report 03-004  
Deviation from a Licensed Condition under 10CFR50.54(x)

Pursuant to 10CFR50.73, the South Texas Project submits the attached Unit 1 Licensee Event Report 03-004 regarding the deviation from a license requirement under the allowance of 10CFR50.54(x) on July 15, 2003. This event did not have an adverse effect on the health and safety of the public.

There are no commitments in this correspondence.

If there are any questions on this submittal, please contact W. E. Mookhoek at (361) 972-7274 or me at (361) 972-7849.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. D. Halpin", is written over a horizontal line.

E. D. Halpin  
Plant General Manager

WEM

Attachment: LER 03-004 (South Texas, Unit 1)

Handwritten initials "JED2" in black ink.

cc:  
(paper copy)

Regional Administrator, Region IV  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
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(electronic copy)

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**LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)**

(See reverse for required number of digits/characters for each block)

Estimated burden per response to comply with this mandatory information collection request: 50 hours. Reported lessons learned are incorporated into the licensing process and fed back to industry. Send comments regarding burden estimate to the Records Management Branch (T-6 E6), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by internet e-mail to bjs1@nrc.gov, and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202 (3150-0104), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. If a means used to impose 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.

<b>1. FACILITY NAME</b> South Texas Unit 1	<b>2. DOCKET NUMBER</b> 05000 498	<b>3. PAGE</b> 1 OF 3
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**4. TITLE**  
Deviation from a Licensed Condition under 10CFR50.54(x)

5. EVENT DATE			6. LER NUMBER			7. REPORT DATE			8. OTHER FACILITIES INVOLVED	
MONTH	DAY	YEAR	YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REV NO	MO	DAY	YEAR	FACILITY NAME	DOCKET NUMBER
07	15	2003	2003	04	00	09	15	2003	South Texas Unit 2	05000 499

<b>9. OPERATING MODE</b>	N	<b>11. THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR * (Check all that apply)</b>								
<b>10. POWER LEVEL</b>	000	<input type="checkbox"/> 20.2201(b)	<input type="checkbox"/> 20.2203(a)(3)(ii)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(ii)(B)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(ix)(A)					
		<input type="checkbox"/> 20.2201(d)	<input type="checkbox"/> 20.2203(a)(4)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(iii)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(x)					
		<input type="checkbox"/> 20.2203(a)(1)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.36(c)(1)(i)(A)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(iv)(A)	<input type="checkbox"/> 73.71(a)(4)					
		<input type="checkbox"/> 20.2203(a)(2)(i)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.36(c)(1)(ii)(A)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(v)(A)	<input type="checkbox"/> 73.71(a)(5)					
		<input type="checkbox"/> 20.2203(a)(2)(ii)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.36(c)(2)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(v)(B)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER					
		<input type="checkbox"/> 20.2203(a)(2)(iii)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.46(a)(3)(ii)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(v)(C)	Specify in Abstract below or in NRC Form 366A					
		<input type="checkbox"/> 20.2203(a)(2)(iv)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(i)(A)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(v)(D)						
		<input type="checkbox"/> 20.2203(a)(2)(v)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(i)(B)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(vii)						
<input type="checkbox"/> 20.2203(a)(2)(vi)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(i)(C)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(viii)(A)								
<input type="checkbox"/> 20.2203(a)(3)(i)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(ii)(A)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(viii)(B)								

**12. LICENSEE CONTACT FOR THIS LER**

<b>NAME</b> W. E. Mookhoek, Licensing Engineer	<b>TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code)</b> 361-972-7274
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**13. COMPLETE ONE LINE FOR EACH COMPONENT FAILURE DESCRIBED IN THIS REPORT**

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

<b>14. SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT EXPECTED</b>				<b>15. EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> YES (If yes, complete EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X	<input type="checkbox"/> NO		MONTH	DAY	YEAR

**16. ABSTRACT (Limit to 1400 spaces, i.e., approximately 15 single-spaced typewritten lines)**

On the morning of July 14, 2003 a Hurricane Warning for Hurricane Claudette was issued for the South Texas Project site. Unit 1 was in a defueled state with all irradiated fuel in the Spent Fuel Pool. Unit 2 was operating in Mode 1 at 100% power. On site weather conditions continued to deteriorate throughout the day of July 14 and morning of July 15 as tropical storm conditions reached the site. The Perimeter Intrusion Detection System was operating with higher than normal alarm rates due to the driving rain and high winds. At 0623 on July 15, 2003 as conditions worsened the security officers performing outside duties were relieved from all exterior positions for their safety due to high wind conditions. By 0840 on July 15, 2003 weather conditions had degraded to the point where neither site personnel nor camera positions could assess alarms from the Perimeter Intrusion Detection System. Very hazardous conditions existed outside of secure structures that precluded responding personnel to alarm conditions. As a result the South Texas Project Unit 1 Shift Supervisor, a licensed senior operator, applied 10CFR50.54(x) to protect the health and safety of site personnel from the severe weather conditions. The compensatory actions required by 10CFR73.51(d)(3) for perimeter alarms were not performed. The loss of the perimeter intrusion detection and assessment function resulted in the declaration of a Security Alert as defined in the Safeguards Contingency Plan. A Security Alert directs the entry into the site Emergency Plan at the Unusual Event level. The Shift Supervisor entered the Emergency Plan at 0855 on July 15, 2003 with the declaration of an Unusual Event. At 1432, after the weather subsided the security force began recovery actions. All compensatory positions were reestablished at 1454 on July 15, 2003. Testing of the intrusion detection and threat assessment equipment and a search of all Vital and Protected areas were completed at 1616 on July 15, 2003. The site exited the Security Alert and the Unusual Event at 1625 on July 15, 2003.

**LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)**

1. FACILITY NAME	2. DOCKET	6. LER NUMBER			3. PAGE		
South Texas Unit 1	05000 498	YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER	2	OF	3
		2003	04	00			

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

**Description Of Event**

On the morning of July 14, 2003 a Hurricane Warning for Hurricane Claudette was issued for the South Texas Project site. As a preparatory action the Unit 1 Shift Supervisor had discussions with the Security Force Superintendent and other plant personnel to determine the proper regulatory actions need to protect plant staff from the dangerous conditions caused by hurricane conditions on site. A plan was developed that included the use of 10CFR50.54(x) when hazardous conditions prevented plant staff from responding to alarms on the Perimeter Intrusion Detection System (IDS). Unit 1 was in a defueled state at the time with all irradiated fuel stored in the Spent Fuel Pool. Unit 2 was operating normally in Mode 1 at 100% power. Weather conditions continued to deteriorate throughout July 14 and 15 as tropical storm conditions reached the site. The IDS was operating with higher than normal alarm rates due to the driving rain and high winds. At 0623 on July 15, 2003 as conditions worsened the security officers performing outside duties were relieved from all exterior positions for their safety due to high wind conditions. By 0840 on July 15, 2003 weather conditions had degraded to the point where neither site personnel nor camera positions could assess alarms from the IDS. Very hazardous conditions existed outside of secure structures that precluded responding personnel to alarm conditions. In accordance with the predetermined plan the South Texas Project Unit 1 Shift Supervisor, a licensed senior operator, applied 10CFR50.54(x) to protect the health and safety of site personnel from the tropical storm conditions. Personnel would no longer respond to alarms from the IDS as required by 10CFR73.51(d)(3). The loss of the IDS and assessment ability function resulted in the declaration of a Security Alert as defined in the South Texas Project Safeguards Contingency Plan.

The declaration of a Security Alert by the Security Force Supervisor is an entry condition into the site Emergency Plan at the Unusual Event level. In accordance with site procedures the Unit 1 Shift Supervisor entered the Emergency Plan at 0855 on July 15, 2003 with the declaration of an Unusual Event. After the severe weather conditions subsided the Security Force Supervisor performed a preliminary walk-down of the protected area at 1330 to verify that hazardous conditions no longer existed and personnel could safely return to duties outside secure buildings. At 1432 on July 15, 2003, after the weather subsided, the security force began recovery actions. All compensatory positions were reestablished by 1454 on July 15, 2003. A search of the Protected Area and Vital Areas was started at 1508 on July 15, 2003 and completed satisfactorily by 1616. Testing of the intrusion detection and threat assessment equipment were also completed at 1616 on July 15, 2003. The site exited the Security Alert and the Unusual Event at 1625 on July 15, 2003.

**Event Significance**

There were no adverse safety or radiological consequences associated with this event. The Protected Area barriers remained intact throughout the event.

A reduction of security effectiveness occurred when the security officers performing compensatory duties were prevented from performing these duties by hazardous weather conditions. However, a search of the Protected and Vital areas was completed and no unauthorized material or personnel were identified. The IDS performed as designed and was limited by environmental conditions only.

This event is reportable pursuant to 10CFR50.73(a)(2)(i)(C), 10CFR50.73(a)(2)(iii), and 10CFR73.71(d).

## LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)

1. FACILITY NAME	2. DOCKET	6. LER NUMBER			3. PAGE	
		YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER		
South Texas Unit 1	05000 498	2003	04	00	3	OF 3

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

### Causes of the Event

The root cause of the event was a hurricane that effected the South Texas Project site.

### Corrective Actions

1. All compensatory positions were reestablished by 1454 on July 15, 2003.
2. A search of the Protected Area and Vital Areas was completed satisfactorily by 1616.
3. Testing of the intrusion detection and threat assessment equipment was completed at 1616 on July 15, 2003.

The IDS performed as designed during this event. No actions will be taken to prevent recurrence.

### Generic Implications

None

### Additional Information

There have been no previous instances where 10CFR50.54(x) have been applied due to severe weather conditions at the South Texas Project.