

May 29, 2012

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-12-004

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, Arlington, Texas, staff on this date.

Facility

RIVER BEND STATION
St. Francisville, LA 70775
Docket: 50-458 License No. NPF-47

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: AUGMENTED INSPECTION TEAM ONSITE AT RIVER BEND STATION

DESCRIPTION:

On May 27, 2012, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission commenced an Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) assessment of the circumstances surrounding the May 24, 2012, loss of non-safety related service water event at the River Bend Station.

AITs are used by the NRC to review more significant events or issues at NRC-licensed facilities. The four-member team includes inspectors from the NRC's Region IV office in Arlington, TX. The team will be led by NRC Region IV Branch Chief Geoffrey Miller of the Division of Reactor Safety.

During a reactor startup on May 24, 2012, operators at River Bend Station initiated a manual scram of the reactor from 33% reactor power. The reactor scram was the result of a loss of circulating water and non safety-related cooling water caused by an electrical fault associated with a main feedwater pump motor. The fault was not isolated by the motor feeder breaker due to a failed relay, resulting in a trip of the supply breaker for the 13.8 kV non-safety-related electrical bus. Because of a previous cable failure and fire on Monday, May 21, 2012, all operating circulating water pumps and non-safety related service water pumps were powered through this supply breaker. The loss of the running pumps resulted in the loss of condenser vacuum and cooling water to turbine building and safety-related loads. Both divisions of safety-related standby service water system started and restored cooling to the safety-related loads.

All three safety-related electrical buses remained energized from offsite power, and all three diesel generators remained operable. No emergency action level declaration was made, and there were no radiological releases due to this event.

As of May 27, River Bend Station was in cold shutdown with all safety systems available for that condition. The licensee was continuing their investigation into the cause of electrical faults that resulted in the loss of non-safety related service water.

The state of Louisiana has been informed. This information has been discussed with licensee management and is current as of 2:00 p.m. (CDT).

This preliminary notification is issued for information only and will be updated again as more information becomes available.

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML12150A347

CONTACTS: Victor Dricks
(817) 200-1128

Victor.Dricks@nrc.gov

Vincent Gaddy
(817) 917-1211

Vincent.Gaddy@nrc.gov