

June 12, 2012

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

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: UPDATE - AUGMENTED INSPECTION TEAM ONSITE AT RIVER BEND STATION

DESCRIPTION:

The preliminary notification supplements information in PNO-IV-12-004 and PNO-IV-12-004A. Those preliminary notifications describe a scram that occurred on May 24, 2012, and leakage from several safety relief valves that was revealed during plant start-up on June 2, 2012.

At River Bend, the design of the safety relief valves includes a nozzle ring that is positioned around the valve's throat a short distance below the valve seat. Each nozzle ring is mounted in threads that allow its vertical position to be adjusted by rotating the ring either clockwise or counter-clockwise around the valve's throat, and each nozzle ring is held in place by a set screw that extends from outside the valve body to intersect with grooves cut into the outer surface of the ring.

Following the plant shutdown on June 2, troubleshooting revealed that in two of the safety relief valves, the subject set screw was broken. The licensee suspects that these set screws may have been broken by vibration during a previous actuation of the valves, and that the broken set screws had allowed the nozzle rings to rotate such that the nozzle rings had interfered with proper seating of the valves, thereby causing the valves to leak. The licensee replaced both of these valves. The licensee suspects that the third leaking safety relief valve had experienced some seat damage during the December 23, 2011, reactor scram. The licensee replaced that safety relief valve. Also, in all three of these valves, the licensee replaced the set screw with a set screw of an improved design. The licensee restarted the reactor on June 9, 2012, at 6:01 p.m., and reconnected it to the electrical grid on June 10, 2012, at 5:02 p.m. During this startup, the licensee noted no leakage from safety relief valves. The licensee anticipates returning the plant to full power by late on June 12, 2012.

The state of Louisiana has been informed. This information has been discussed with licensee management and is current as of June 11, 2012, 3:45 p.m. (CDT).

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML12164A698

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