

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

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June 22, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-79-179

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of event of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff on this date.

FACILITY: South Texas Project, Unit No. 1
Houston Lighting & Power Company
DN 50498

SUBJECT: VOIDS IN REACTOR CONTAINMENT WALL

The Houston Lighting and Power Company (HL&P) notified Region IV of two voids which were discovered under the steel liner in Lift 8 of the reactor containment wall. The voids, which are each approximately five square feet in area and approximately ten inches deep, are located near the equipment hatch. Placement of concrete in Lift 8 was completed on September 16, 1978. The voids were found during the licensee's currently ongoing investigation of possible problems in Lift 8 as a result of a statement made by a site employee.

The licensee has completed soundings of the Lift 8 liner and is currently engaged in further investigation of potential void areas by drilling and insertion of probes into the suspected areas. The licensee stated that no unique problems with Lift 8 had been identified in Quality Assurance records and that, without the information provided in the employees statement, there was no reason to suspect that voids existed.

In view of the lack of documented problems that could have caused the voids in Lift 8 and the existence of previously identified voids in Lift 15, the licensee is making plans to examine other under the liner areas in the containment walls of both Units 1 and 2 to determine the nature and extent of the void problem.

The licensee reported this matter by telephone on June 18, 1979, in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50.55(e) with supplemental information provided on June 21. This information is current as of 9:00 a.m. on June 22, 1979.

The licensee plans to issue a news release on June 22, 1979.

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Distribution: Transmitted H St 12:30

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