

February 2, 1990

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-90-06

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: Houston Lighting & Power Company
South Texas Project, Unit 2
Bay City, Texas
Docket: 50-499

Licensee Emergency Classification:
 Notification of Unusual Event
 Alert
 Site Area Emergency
 General Emergency
 Not Applicable

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF REACTOR TRIP

At 2:59 a.m. (CST) on February 2, 1990, South Texas Project, Unit 2 (STP-2), tripped from 100 percent reactor power when the "S" train reactor trip breaker (Westinghouse Model DS 416) opened. The reason the breaker opened is not known and is under investigation by the licensee. Systems functioned as expected after the trip and STP-2 is stable in Mode 3 (hot standby). STP-2 experienced a similar trip on April 14, 1989, when the "S" train reactor trip breaker opened because of an undetermined reason. The licensee replaced both the "R" and "S" train reactor trip breakers, and exchanged the "R" and "S" train logic circuit cards, after the April trip. Licensee checks of security and maintenance records after both trips indicated no one present in the vicinity of the reactor trip breakers and no maintenance or surveillance activity in progress which could have caused the trips. The licensee's planned investigation includes conducting thermographic inspection with comparison to baseline values from inspections conducted last year, performance of a Westinghouse owner's group reactor breaker test procedure, and contact with other utilities and Westinghouse for information regarding possible similar occurrences at other plants. The licensee intends to remain shut down in Mode 3 until investigation and appropriate resolution of the problem are completed.

Neither the licensee nor the NRC plans to issue a press release.


The state of Texas has been informed.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by telecon from the headquarters operations officer at 4 a.m. (CST) and an update regarding planned investigative action from the licensee at 10 a.m. Region IV has informed the EDO and NRR offices.

This information has been confirmed with a licensee representative.

CONTACT: E. Holler, FTS 728-8287

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2/2/90

RA 
RDMartin
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* Does not include non-NRC locations (labs, utilities)