

February 12, 1990

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-90-08

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: Gulf States Utilities
River Bend Station
Docket: 50-458

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

SUBJECT: AUGMENTED INSPECTION TEAM (AIT) DISPATCHED

On February 11, 1990, at 10:09 a.m. (CST), with the reactor at 100 percent power, the unit experienced a partial ESF actuation of the Division II standby diesel generator (DG), containment unit Cooler 1B, and associated service water supply valves, an autostart of the control building Filter B, the reactor core isolation cooling (RCIC) initiation logic, and the opening of the Low Pressure Coolant Injection (LPCI) B and C injection valves.

The event occurred when a scheduled PM was being performed on the Division II charger. When going to the equalize position on the charger, a high voltage spike was experienced which caused the Topaz inverter (powered by the charger's 125 Vdc bus) to trip. Prior to lowering the voltage to below the inverter's reset voltage (132 Vdc), the operators racked out the Division II residual heat removal (RHR) pump breakers to prevent initiation and defeated the automatic depressurization system (ADS) trip logic and solenoids. Also, the RCIC was isolated to prevent injection. However, it was not recognized that the Division II DG and the other previously mentioned components would receive an initiation signal upon resetting the inverter.

The licensee has formed a task force and is investigating the cause of the event. Immediate operator investigation determined that there was no significant backflow due to the LPCI injection valve's opening. The Senior Resident Inspector was notified by the licensee and, after discussing the event with licensee system engineers and operators, he verified the operator reports by direct observation.

The licensee has suspended further use of the procedure involved and tagged out the charger(s) in the FLOAT position pending the results of the engineering investigation.

The plant remained at 100 percent power throughout the event.

Region IV has initiated an AIT to followup on the event. The resident inspectors are monitoring licensee actions.

The NRC plans to issue a press release on February 13, 1990.

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The state of Louisiana will be informed.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the Senior Resident Inspection at ~~the~~ River Bend Station on February 11, 1990. Region IV has informed EDO, NRR, SP, and PA.

This information has been confirmed with a licensee representative.

CONTACT: G. L. Constable FTS 728-8151

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Licensee (Reactor)

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