

February 18, 1994

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-IV-94-004A

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 Co.  
South Texas 1  
Wadsworth, Texas  
Dockets: 50-498

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: LIFTING OF CONFIRMATORY ACTION LETTER AT SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT,  
UNIT 1 - UPDATE

This constitutes an update of PNO-IV-94-004 that was issued February 16, 1994, which described the lifting of the Confirmatory Action Letter on February 15, 1994.

Following completion of required prestartup checks, Unit 1 entered Mode 2 on February 17, 1994, at 10:52 p.m. (CST), and at 12:27 a.m. on February 18 the reactor was made critical. As of 7 a.m. on February 18, Unit 1 was at 3 percent power, dumping steam to the main condensor. Rod withdrawal, approach to criticality, and subsequent low power operation have proceeded in a deliberate fashion.

Currently, the steam generators are being fed by an electric-driven startup feed pump. After placing a steam generator feedwater pump in service, the licensee intends to increase power to 5 percent and commence preparation to roll the main turbine and generator.

The licensee continues to conduct self-assessments of their performance, in addition to the onsite NRC staff performing independent assessments. Based on the licensee's assessments of their performance being positive, main generator breaker closure is currently projected some time on Monday, February 21, 1994.

Augmented Resident Inspector staff continues 24-hour coverage of control room operations and witnessed the approach to, and achievement of, critical operation.

The state of Texas will be informed.

This information has been confirmed with a licensee representative.

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