

March 22, 1994

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-IV-94-008

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of event 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

Entergy Operations Inc.  
Waterford 3  
Killona, Louisiana  
Dockets: 50-382

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: ALERT DECLARED DUE TO CHLORINE RELEASE AT A CHEMICAL PLANT

At 1 a.m., on March 19, 1994, while in a refueling outage, Waterford-3 declared an ALERT, due to a toxic gas (chlorine) release within 2 miles of the plant, as required by their emergency plan procedures. The source of the release was a nearby chemical plant which had reportedly suffered a small explosion of a pump. The Waterford 3 plant personnel became aware of the problem when the control room received phone calls inquiring about the explosion. None of the plant's toxic gas monitors had alarmed as the result of this event. The plant personnel followed up on these calls by calling the St. Charles industrial hot line and were informed that St. Charles parish had declared an emergency. The area and road where the chemical plant was located was blocked off by law enforcement officials.

The affected chemical plant was located downwind of Waterford 3 and, therefore, the plant was not threatened. As a conservative measure, the licensee required the approximately 1,000 people on site to be sheltered and in-progress fuel movements were suspended during the alert. The control room ventilation system was already in the recirculation mode due to electrical bus outages that were the result of the ongoing refueling outage. The chlorine release was terminated at 1:58 a.m. and the plant exited the alert at 2:15 a.m.

The state of Louisiana has been informed.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the licensee at 2 a.m. Region IV has informed the EDO, NRR, and PAO.

This information has been confirmed with a licensee representative.

Contact: T. STETKA  
(817)860-8247

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