

October 16, 1990

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNC-IV-90-38

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: Entergy Operations, Inc.
Arkansas Nuclear One
Dockets: 50-313; 50-368
Russellville, Arkansas

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

SUBJECT: DECLARATION OF A NOTICE OF UNUSUAL EVENT (NOUE) DUE TO CHLORINE GAS RELEASE

At approximately 1:25 p.m. (CDT) on October 16, 1990, the licensee declared a NOUE due to a release of chlorine gas. Personnel working in the sewage treatment facility, located just outside of the protected area at the southwest corner of the site, were removing a 150-pound chlorine gas bottle from service. The bottle isolation valve was shut and the tubing connected to the bottle was removed. Apparently the bottle valve was not fully shut, as gas was released when the tubing was removed.

The prevailing winds blew the chlorine gas across the southwest corner of the site. Personnel in the plume path were immediately relocated away from the plume. Three individuals were taken to the local hospital in Russellville, Arkansas, in personal vehicles. One individual experienced respiratory concern and the other two experienced respiratory discomfort. No information is currently available on the condition of the individuals.

At the time of the event, the Units 1 and 2 control rooms were isolated due to maintenance on the ventilation systems. No indication of chlorine gas in the vicinity of the control room was noted. SCBAs were available in the control rooms for operations personnel in the event the SCBAs were needed.

At approximately 2:10 p.m., the chlorine leak was stopped when the tubing was reconnected to the gas bottle. The NOUE was terminated at approximately 3:10 p.m.

Local and state officials were notified by the licensee of the event.

Press inquiries have been received by the licensee. The licensee plans to issue a press release.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by the HQ duty officer from the Unit 1 shift supervisor at 1:50 p.m. Region IV has informed EDO, NRR, PAO, and the state of Arkansas.

This information has been confirmed with a licensee representative.

CONTACT: P. H. Harrell FTS 728-8250

RIV:D:DRP RA
SJCcollins;df RDMartin
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PNC-IV-90-038 PDC

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(5520: 10/16/90 @ 4:45
Regions & HQ)