

November 26, 1990

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-90-41

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 1
Bay City, Texas
Docket: 50-498

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

SUBJECT: SHUTDOWN GREATER THAN 72 HOURS

At 2:48 p.m. (CST) on November 24, 1990, with Unit 1 operating at 100 percent power, a reactor trip occurred following a trip of the main turbine. The main turbine trip was caused by a generator lockout because of an apparent fault sensed by the overcurrent protective relay for the generator. All safety systems operated as required and no engineered safety feature actuations occurred. The plant was stabilized in Mode 3.

Subsequent investigation by the licensee revealed that the generator lockout was caused by a ground from a leak in the stator cooling water system. Inspection of the generator revealed the presence of water around the turbine end of the generator. Following the trip, the licensee also found that the stator cooling water tank pressure increased to 34 psig during the transient. The normal tank pressure is 2-6 psig. Work requests were generated to investigate and repair, as necessary, the supply pressure regulator for the stator cooling water tank and a tank relief valve that may not have functioned properly when the tank pressure increased to 34 psig. The licensee has not determined whether this condition caused or contributed to the stator cooling water system leak.

As of 8 a.m. (CST) on November 26, 1990, Unit 1 was operating in Mode 3. The licensee plans to cool down to Mode 4 in order to determine the source of the leak in the stator cooling water system. The Unit 1 outage is currently expected to last 7-9 days.

The licensee will not issue a press release.

The state of Texas will be informed.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the senior resident inspector at 4 p.m. (CST) on November 24, 1990. Region IV has informed the EDO and NRR.

This information has been confirmed with a licensee representative.

CONTACT: A. T. Howell FTS 728-8180

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(5520: 11/26/90 @ 9:50a.m
 Regions & HQ)