

April 22, 1994

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-IV-94-021

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.
River Bend Station
St Francisville, Louisiana
Dockets: 50-458

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT CONTAMINATION IN CONTAINMENT

On April 20, 1994, at approximately 11:45 p.m. (CDT), facility maintenance personnel were attempting to loosen a stuck reactor vessel head hold-down bolt using a portable pneumatic impact wrench. The service air hose connection to the pneumatic wrench was a twist-lock type fitting, which disconnected from the pneumatic wrench. The airhose was not restrained in the vicinity of the failed fitting, and the ensuing whipping action of the hose allowed it to fall into the bellows region of the upper pool cavity. The airflow from the hose agitated the dry debris in the bottom and on the sides of the dry pool cavity, distributing contaminated dust into the containment atmosphere. The air supply to the hose was then isolated.

Containment purge was in service at the time of the event with the containment equipment hatch open. In response, the licensee secured containment building ventilation and maintained containment purge flow to standby gas treatment. Personnel were evacuated from the containment. No contamination was found outside containment. Fifteen workers were contaminated: 10 with skin contamination, 5 with contamination only on their clothing. Of the 10 with skin contamination, 1 had nasal contamination. Whole body counts of the worker with the highest level of skin contamination and the worker with nasal contamination indicated no significant uptake, with levels estimated at 20 percent of the Annual Limit on Intake (ALI). One hot particle was also found but is not believed to be related to this event.

The licensee performed swipe surveys of the refueling floor, upper pool area, and equipment hatch area. Swipes indicated general area contamination of 1000 to 5000 DPM. Swipes near the equipment hatch indicated an average of 10,000 DPM, with the highest swipe reading 30,000 DPM on a location in a vertical shaft above the equipment hatch. The licensee believes that these higher levels of contamination were the result of other activities in the containment and were not a product of this event. Isotopic analysis of the swipes indicates 90 percent Cobalt 60 and trace amounts of Iodine 131.

260058

9404270052 940422
PDR I&E
PNO-IV-94-021 PDR

IG 34 1/0

Region IV will have two radiation protection inspectors at the site next week to review the circumstances leading to this event and the licensee's corrective actions.

The state of Louisiana has not been informed by the licensee.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the Senior Resident Inspector at 7:30 a.m. (CDT) on April 21, 1994. Additional information was received by telephone from the licensee at 11 a.m. Region IV has informed NRR, EDO, and PAO.

This information herein has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 10 a.m. on April 22, 1994.

Contact: J. E. Gagliardo
(817)860-8270