

September 9, 1994

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-IV-94-049

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 Region IV staff in Arlington, Texas on this date.

Facility

Gulf States Utilities Co.
River Bend 1
St Francisville, Louisiana
Dockets: 50-458

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: NONROUTINE REACTOR TRIP AND NOTIFICATION OF UNUSUAL EVENT

A Notification of Unusual Event (NOUE) was declared at the River Bend Station at 10:09 p.m. (CDT) on September 8, 1994.

At 8:28 p.m. (CDT) the River Bend Station experienced a reactor trip on high vessel level from 97 percent power without a coincident turbine and main generator trip. Some safety systems and systems important to safety did not operate as anticipated.

Operators manually tripped the main generator output breakers and an apparent electrical anomaly occurred, resulting in a loss of the feedwater and condensate systems, and isolation of the main steam system. Safety relief valves and main steam line drain valves were manually operated to control reactor pressure. Reactor core isolation (RCIC) cooling was manually initiated but malfunctioned, and operators used high pressure core spray to maintain vessel level.

Through these manual actions the licensee operators were able to achieve a safe shutdown condition. Operational Condition 3 (Hot Shutdown) was entered at 8 a.m. on September 9, 1994. There were no offsite radiological releases from the event.

The NOUE was declared at the discretion of the shift supervisor at 10:09 p.m. based on the judgement that augmented support was warranted in restoring plant systems. No Emergency Action Levels (EALs) were met that would require declaration of the emergency classification. The emergency classification was terminated at 12:55 a.m. when reactor vessel pressure and level were stabilized. Vessel level reached a low of between +2 - +3" during the event. Automatic injection setpoints are a +2" level.

Due to the apparent turbine trip malfunction and electrical power anomalies, RCIC malfunction, and unexpected motor-operated valve isolations and mispositionings, Region IV, in conjunction with the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, has determined an Augmented Inspection Team inspection will be conducted in accordance with NRC Manual Chapter 0325. The AIT will ascertain the causes, conditions and circumstances

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relative to the event and assess the safety significance. The AIT will be comprised of a leader with electrical and systems expertise, an electrical systems engineer, a motor-operated valve specialist, and a senior resident inspector. A human factors specialist will also be a team member to evaluate operations performance during the transient.

The AIT composition and inspection charter will be finalized on September 9, and the team will arrive on site on September 9.

The licensee has indicated its intent not to restart the reactor prior to September 12, 1994.

The state of Louisiana has been informed.

Region IV has informed NRR, EDO, and PAO.

This information herein has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 10:30 a.m. (CDT) on September 10, 1994.

The licensee plans to issue a press release. NRC will make a public announcement regarding the AIT.

Contact: Phillip Harrell
(817)860-8250

Terry Reis
(817)860-8185