

March 5, 1992

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-92-17

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: Gulf States Utilities  
River Bend Station  
Docket: 50-458

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

SUBJECT: PLANT TRIP CAUSED BY HIGH WINDS

On March 5, 1992, at 2:03 a.m., due to high winds in the area of the site, corrugated sheet metal panels were blown off the turbine building. One panel landed in the main switchyard, causing a fault on the main transformer, and resulted in a turbine trip and reactor trip. The plant responded normally and, except for two minor problems, is currently in hot standby and is safe and stable. The two minor problems involved a feedwater regulating valve not functioning properly and rod motion was observed prior to the reactor trip. The licensee will review these problems.

At 3:50 a.m., the licensee declared a Notice of Unusual Event (NOUE) because the damage was caused by tornadic-like winds. No tornadoes were actually sighted in the area. The NOUE was secured at 4:23 a.m.

The panels that blew off the turbine resulted in a hole in the building approximately 50 by 50 feet. The licensee is currently assessing methods to temporarily repair the hole.

The panels had fiberglass insulation attached to them and the insulation is slightly contaminated (approximately 1000 dpm on contact). Due to the high winds, the insulation has been blown into the areas surrounding the protected area. Insulation has been found outside the protected area but has not yet been found outside of the owner-controlled area. To address this, the licensee has established security road blocks at all owner-controlled property access points to prevent vehicle and/or personnel entry, except for operations and HP personnel.

As a result of plant personnel reporting to work, traffic around the plant has backed up and the licensee has requested assistance from the local law enforcement agencies for assistance with traffic control.

The licensee has taken samples around the site to determine if contamination is present. No contamination has been found yet.

The resident inspectors are onsite and are being assisted by two HP inspectors that were at the site performing a routine inspection. The weather service has issued a tornado warning for the general area of the plant, as tornadoes have been seen in the area but some miles from the plant.

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The licensee has issued a press release and has activated its rumor-control phone bank. NRC is prepared to respond to media inquiries.

The states of Louisiana and Mississippi have been informed by the licensee.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the senior resident inspector at 7:10 a.m. Region IV has informed EDO, NRR, and PA.

This information has been confirmed with a licensee representative.

CONTACT: P. H. Harrell FTS 728-8250

DISTRIBUTION:

OWFN		NMBB	FAX	MAIL: DCS (Orig. IE34)
The Chairman	CA NMSS	AEOD	INPO	DOT (Transp. Only)
Comm. Rogers	OGC NRR	IRM	PDR	
Comm. Curtiss	GPA SLITP	OIG	NSAC	(5520: <u>  </u> / <u>  </u> / 92 @ <u>  </u> )
Comm. Remick	PA OE		RRI	Regions & HQ)
Comm. dePlanque		NL	NRC Ops Ctr	
EDO	<u>L-ST</u>	RES	Licensee	(PHONE VERIF: <u>3/5/92 @ 11:25a</u> )
	<u>PDR</u>		ACRS	NRP 964-1168 or 964-1166)
			DCAA	