meteorological conditions. Wind data from this NWS station would have been adequate to maintain offsite dose assessment capability.

The vendor responsible for maintaining the three stations' onsite meteorological monitoring programs is also under contract to provide site-specific meteorological forecasts and even estimates of current local meteorological conditions upon licensee request. The vendor has a 24 hour capability to provide these services. Had any of the three stations had a situation which warranted an Alert or higher class of an emergency, responding members of the licensee's offsite dose assessment staff would have been procedurally required to contact the vendor to at least obtain a site-specific meteorological forecast. An estimate of current wind conditions could have been requested at that time. However, Control Room personnel were apparently unaware that the vendor could also have been contacted to provide estimates of current meteorological conditions. By early afternoon on March 13, the licensee's corporate emergency planning staff had ensured that each station had been informed that the vendor could provide such estimates. Given the synoptic scale of the storm system and the terrain characteristics of the area including the three plant sites, wind speed and direction conditions should not have been very difficult for the vendor's staff to estimate.

In accordance with contractual provisions, the vendor dispatched one or more technicians to LaSalle Station on the morning of March 13 to assess the conditions of the meteorological monitoring equipment and to initiate repairs.

The Unusual Event at the LaSalle Station was terminated at 1234 hrs on March 13, when at least one measurement level of wind speed and direction sensors were considered to be properly operating.

The short-term loss of reliable data from meteorological sensors at a given location is considered to have little or no safety significance. The relevant Emergency Action Level (EAL) corresponds to Example Initiating Condition No. 11 for the Unusual Event class, as listed in NUREG-0654, Revision 1. In accordance with the licensee's, State's, and counties' approved emergency plans and the NRC's Incident Response Plan, an Unusual Event declaration does not require emergency responders from these organizations to report to their assigned emergency response facilities. The Unusual Event class description is that events are in progress or have occurred which indicate a potential degradation of the level of plant safety.

The guidance in NUREG-0654 refers to proposed Revision 1 to Regulatory Guide 1.23 (1980) as the source of acceptance criteria for licensees' meteorological monitoring programs. However, proposed Revision 1 was never issued in final form. The current Regulatory Guide 1.23 (1972) includes a 90 percent data recovery "goal" over an unspecified time period, which proposed Revision 1 clarified to mean a 90 percent annual joint recovery rate for wind speed, wind direction, and atmospheric stability measurements, as well as a 90 percent annual recovery rate for