

January 24, 1992

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-92-05

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: South Texas Project, Unit 2
Houston Lighting & Power Company
Docket: 50-499

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

SUBJECT: FORCED SHUTDOWN TO EXCEED 72 HOURS

On January 22, 1992, at 9:10 a.m. (CST), South Texas Project, Unit 2, tripped from 100 percent power. The reactor trip was generated by a power range high neutron flux negative rate trip signal. The neutron flux negative rate trip was generated when a full out control rod dropped into the core because of a failed-open diode in the stationary gripper coil circuitry. All safety systems performed as expected with the exception of a backup pressurizer heater bank breaker which failed to automatically close and a containment isolation valve (bulk water sample line) which failed to isolate. The backup pressurizer heater bank breaker was manually closed and the sample line was isolated. These failures did not adversely effect the operators response to this event.

On January 23, the licensee identified a steam generator secondary leak at a 2-inch inspection port/access cover. On January 24, the licensee notified the senior resident inspector that they would proceed to Mode 5 (Cold Shutdown) to repair the inspection port/access cover leak. The licensee expects to return to power operation on January 27, 1992.

Neither the licensee nor the NRC plans to issue a press release.

The state of Texas will be informed.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the SRI at 9 a.m. Region IV has informed the EDO, NRR, and the PA.

This information has been confirmed with a licensee representative.

CONTACT: A. T. Howell, FTS 728-8180

RIV: DRP
AB: each; df
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RA: *[Signature]*
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