

March 25, 1992

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-92-19

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.	Licensee Emergency Classification:
Waterford 3 Steam Electric Station	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notification of Unusual Event
Docket: 50-382	<input type="checkbox"/> Alert
	<input type="checkbox"/> Site Area Emergency
	<input type="checkbox"/> General Emergency
	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable

SUBJECT: PLANT SHUTDOWN REQUIRED BY TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

On March 25, 1992, at 2:47 a.m. (CST), the licensee commenced a reactor shutdown due to unidentified RCS leakage of approximately 13 gpm. At 12:14 a.m., operators noticed containment particulate activity trending up. At about the same time, containment leakage, as measured by the containment sump weir flow detector, increased to approximately 7 gpm. The licensee entered the action statement for TS 3.4.5.2, "RCS Leakage," and sent personnel into the containment to attempt to identify the source of the leakage. Steam and water was observed in the vicinity of the RCP 1B seal area, but the actual source of the leak could not be identified. At 1:40 a.m., an RCS water inventory balance was completed and unidentified leakage was determined to be 13 gpm. This value corresponded to the indicated containment sump weir flow. The licensee declared an unusual event and commenced a reactor shutdown as required by TS. The NRC was notified as required and the resident inspector reported to the control room and observed the plant shutdown. The shutdown was uneventful and the plant entered Mode 3 at 5:45 a.m. Maintenance personnel were preparing to enter the containment at approximately 7 a.m. to identify the specific source of the leak. It was suspected to be Valve RC 418B, a 3/4-inch isolation valve on the seal injection line which penetrates the RCS below the lower RCP seal.

After plant stabilization in Mode 3, the calculated leak rate was 10.1 gpm. At 8:30 a.m., calculated RCS leak rate was approximately 6 gpm.

The licensee will determine the leak repair method following specific identification of the leak. Region IV expects to be briefed by the licensee during the afternoon of March 25. Following the recent outage to repair a steam generator manway gasket leak, the lower stage seal on the 2B RCP (Canadian seal) failed, but it has been performing well with the remaining seal stages.

The licensee has not issued a press release or informed the news media. The licensee will respond to news media inquiries and may issue a press release.

The state of Louisiana has been informed.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the resident inspector at 3:50 a.m. (CST). Region IV has informed EDO, NRR, and PA.

This information has been confirmed with a licensee representative.

CONTACT: W. D. Johnson FTS 728-8148

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(5520: 3/2592 @ 10:30
 Regions & HQ)

(PHONE VERIF: / /92 @
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 or 964-1166)