

May 20, 1992

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-92-022

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: River Bend Station
Gulf States Utilities
St. Francisville, Louisiana

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

Docket No. 50-458

SUBJECT: TRANSPORT OF CONTAMINATED WORKER TO HOSPITAL

At 2:52 p.m. (CDT) on May 19, 1992, a contract insulation worker was injured while working in the main steam tunnel. The worker was on a scaffold, bagging insulation when he fell about 15 feet and sustained a femur compound fracture and back injuries. The main steam tunnel is within the designated radiological controlled area and had general contamination of about 10,000 dpm/100 cm². The worker was initially placed on a stretcher and transported via an offsite ambulance to the West Feliciana Hospital in St. Francisville. The worker was later moved to Lane Memorial Hospital, Zachery, Louisiana for additional medical treatment.

The worker and stretcher were surveyed before leaving the site and found to be contaminated with levels of about 1,000 - 4,000 dpm. Radiological control procedures were implemented to contain the contamination. Three Health Physics technicians and a supervisor accompanied the ambulance to the hospital. The worker's Anti-C coveralls were removed at the West Feliciana Hospital and returned to the plant along with the contaminated medical support equipment. The worker and equipment were surveyed and found free of contamination before being transported to Lane Memorial Hospital. The licensee performed contamination surveys of the ambulance and hospital before these areas were released for unrestricted use.

The licensee has experienced two injury accidents in the past week. As a followup to the May 19, 1992 accident, licensee management held a plant training session to stress the need to adhere to proper work practices.

The licensee has not issued a press release.

The state of Louisiana has been informed.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence from H00 at 3:27 p.m. CST on May 19, 1992. Region IV has informed EDO/NRR/PA.

This information is current as of 9:30 a.m. on May 20, 1992.

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Regions & HQ)

(PHONE VERIF: 5/27/92
A. Byrdsong, NRR 301/504-1168)