

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-85-08

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 NRC staff on this date.

FACILITY: Louisiana Power & Light Company Licensee Emergency Classification:  
 Waterford-3 Steam Electric Stn.  Notification of Unusual Event  
 Killona, Louisiana  Alert  
 Docket No. 50-382  Site Area Emergency  
 General Emergency  
 Not Applicable

SUBJECT: INADVERTENT ACTIVATION OF CONTAINMENT SPRAY SYSTEM

Approximately 400 gallons of borated water was sprayed into containment during functional testing of the Engineered Safety Features Activation System (ESFAS). Based on a quick initial survey no equipment was found damaged, but further inspections are being made. The containment spray headers were filled only to the first or second ring of headers. The activation occurred when one channel of the ESFAS was placed into test and a trip signal simulated and at the same time the containment spray activation relay for the other channel had not been reset from trip testing. The containment spray signal also isolates component cooling water to the reactor coolant pumps. The pumps were immediately secured but component cooling water could not be restored for some time since the isolated section between the inside and outside containment isolation valves pressurized from heat up from ambient temperature and control logic for the isolation valves does not permit valve motor closing signal seal-in to be reset with pressure in this line. Pressure between the component cooling water isolation valves would normally indicate reactor coolant back leakage. Because of the extended loss of component cooling water, the seal cartridge of three of the pumps will be replaced. At least one seal stage has been affected on each of these. Repairs will take approximately 5 days.

As of 9:00 a.m. CST on February 21, 1985, the reactor was in Mode 5 with pressure reduction in progress. The resident inspector is following the licensee's inspection.

The NRC does not plan to issue a press release but will respond to any media inquiries.

The state of Louisiana was notified.

CONTACT: E. H. Johnson, FTS 728-8141.

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11:30 a.m.