

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF SAFEGUARDS EVENT -- PNS-IV-88-01

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE national security 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: Houston Lighting and Power
South Texas Project
Docket 50-498
50-499
Bay City, Texas

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

SUBJECT: THREAT TO HL&P FACILITIES

A telephoned threat against HL&P and the STP plant was received at the HL&P corporate office in Houston at 11:30 p.m. (CST) on March 16, 1988.

The caller stated that two power poles, in Greenspoint near Houston, had been cut down. The caller also said that "the next target to be hit will be the Bay City Power Plant in two hours, please turn the lights back on."

STP operations was notified of this threat at 11:52 p.m. At 12:16 a.m. (CST) on March 17, 1988, STP confirmed that two wooden power poles had been cut down near Greenspoint, Texas, which is located several counties north of the STP site. At the time of that confirmation, STP management considered the 11:30 p.m. threat to be credible and declared a notice of an unusual event (NOUE). The cognizant law enforcement authorities, county, and state officials were notified by STP at 12:36 a.m. (CST), and the FBI was notified at 12:42 a.m. (CST). Contingency plans were implemented and the site security force began searches of the site for destructive devices. Visitor access to the site was suspended.

A conference call was conducted between AEOD, NRR, IAT, RIV, and STP Emergency Director at 1:45 a.m. (CST) on March 17, 1988, regarding the scope of the licensee's response to the event. The site secured from the NOUE at 4:07 a.m. (CST) because the search was completed and disclosed no destructive devices. The sheriff's office, Harris County, is conducting a followup investigation. HL&P and the SRI are being kept apprised of the results of this investigation. The IAT members were contacted again at 7:30 a.m. (CST) by RIV to update them.

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

RIV: DRSS
RLBangart/jt

03/17/88

RAM
RDMartin

3/17/88

Transmitted via 5520

3/17/88-3:58

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PDR I&E
PNS-IV-88-001 DCD

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The state of Texas has been informed.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by the HOO at 1:42 a.m. March 17, 1988. Region IV has informed T. Martin, EDO; P. Kadambi, NRR; and J. Gilliland, PA, RIV.

This information has been confirmed with a licensee representative and is current as of 2:30 p.m. March 17, 1988.

CONTACT: L. A. Yandell (FTS) 728-8108 or R. J. Everett (FTS) 728-8187.

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5520: / /88 @ _____
REGIONS & HQ