

June 16, 1988

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-88-51

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
Houston Lighting & Power

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

SUBJECT: FAILURE OF WESTINGHOUSE 416 ELECTRICAL BREAKERS

The licensee has inspected and tested 28 safety-related Westinghouse electrical breakers, type DS-416, in Unit 1 and found that 2 failed due to burned out closing coils and 7 others had mechanical binding problems. The licensee inspected and tested 18 breakers in Unit 2 and found 3 with mechanical binding problems. The problems identified affect the shutting action of the breakers only. All the breakers tested are required to shut after a loss of offsite power. Westinghouse representatives are on site at STP observing the testing, inspection, and installation of the DS 416 breakers. These failures of DS 416 electrical breakers could be a generic problem.

In a related matter, the licensee was testing the breaker associated with the Train "B" of the Essential Cooling Water (ECW) pump. The breaker failed to close. Train "C" of the ECW was out of service due to a pump seal failure. The licensee replaced the failed breaker in Train "B" with the operable breaker in Train "C". The plant is now in a 72 hour action statement.

Region IV and NRR, are following the licensee's actions and plant status.

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

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