

June 27, 1989

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-89-43

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: Gulf States Utilities
River Bend Station
DN: 50-458

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

SUBJECT: PERSONNEL CONTAMINATION

On June 26, 1989, at approximately 7 p.m., a licensed operator was radiologically contaminated when a valve packing blew out while he was operating the valve. The individual was contaminated to 800 dpm on his arms, hands, and clothes. The contamination was easily removed with soap and water. No internal contamination of the individual occurred.

The operator was opening a condensate pump discharge bypass valve in preparation to start the remaining pump. The reactor was at 70 percent thermal power with the condensate system pressure at 450 psig. The individual slightly injured his back when he jumped from the 4-foot elevated platform. Approximately 2000 square feet of the radiologically controlled turbine building was contaminated by the event. No additional injuries or personnel contaminations have been noted. The licensee has repacked the valve and returned it to its normal position. No other plant equipment was affected. The licensee is investigating the cause of the event. The resident inspector is monitoring licensee actions.

Neither the licensee nor the NRC plans to 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 8 a.m., June 27, 1989.

This information has been confirmed with a licensee representative.

CONTACT: G. L. Madsen, 728-8134

DRP/C *gfm*
GLMadsen;df
6/27/89

JM
D:DRP
JLMilhoan
6/27/89

RA *(w)*
RDMartin
6/27/89

9/1/89
IF 34

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PDR I&E
PNO-IV-89-043 PDC

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Licensee (Reactor)

MAIL: DCS (Orig. IE34)
DOT (Transp. Only)

(5520: 6/27/89 @ 12:15
Regions & HQ)

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