

December 3, 1999

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-IV-99-056A

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 Region IV staff in Arlington, Texas on this date.

Facility

Entergy Operations, Inc.
Waterford 3
Killona, Louisiana
Dockets: 50-382

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event
Alert
Site Area Emergency
General Emergency
X Not Applicable

Subject: RESTART OF WATERFORD 3

On November 27, 1999, at 5:33 a.m. (CST), operators at Waterford 3 Steam Electric Station declared an Alert following a loss of reactor coolant system inventory. At the time of the event, the plant was shut down and in Mode 4 with reactor coolant system temperature at 295 degrees F and pressure at 350 psia. The plant had been shut down on November 26 to repair a small steam leak on a main steam line drain line.

The licensee discovered that a remotely-operated manual valve, which should have been closed, was in the open position. A pin was found to have fallen out of a connection on the reachrod and the reachrod had become disconnected from the valve operator. As a result, the valve did not shut when the auxiliary operator attempted to close it during a previous operation. On November 27, as operations personnel were preparing to place shutdown cooling in service, the mispositioned valve allowed approximately 4800 gallons of reactor coolant to flow from the reactor coolant system to the refueling water storage pool.

While the plant was shutdown, the licensee repaired the small steam leak and the reachrod on the mispositioned valve. The licensee inspected all accessible valves operated with reachrods and did not find any additional missing connector pins.

An NRC special inspection team was dispatched to review the event and the licensee's corrective actions. The team confirmed that there was no additional plant damage from the event and that the licensee's immediate corrective actions were appropriate.

A reactor startup was commenced and criticality was achieved at 11:19 p.m. (CST) on December 1, 1999. The plant reached 100 percent power on December 3.

The state of Louisiana will be notified. The offices of the EDO and NRR have been notified.

This information has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of December 3, 1999, at 7:15 a.m (CST).

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