

August 24, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-00-019

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

Entergy Operations, Inc.
River Bend Station
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775
Docket: 50-458
License: NPF-47

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: PLANT SHUTDOWN GREATER THAN 72 HOURS DUE TO OFFGAS SYSTEM PROBLEMS

DESCRIPTION: On August 21, 2000, at 3:31 p.m. (CDT) with the plant operating at 100 percent power, the operating crew first reduced power to approximately 83 percent and then inserted a manual reactor scram due to the inability to maintain main condenser vacuum greater than 25 inches mercury. The operating crew had been responding to a low flow condition in the in-service offgas system train in accordance with their alarm response procedures. While admitting air into the offgas system train through the systems' air purge valves as directed, a low main condenser vacuum condition occurred, requiring the operators to manually scram the reactor. After the scram, all systems functioned as designed. Main condenser vacuum was restored by isolating the offgas system purge air. The condenser remained available following the scram. The plant is stable in Operational Condition 3 (Hot Shutdown).

Inspection of the offgas system by the licensee revealed some partially blocked drain valves, deteriorated prefilters, and moisture in dryer desiccant. The licensee is currently repairing the system and reviewing all applicable procedures to incorporate changes needed to operate the system as designed.

The state of Louisiana will be informed.

The NRC and the licensee do not plan to make a press release regarding this issue.

The Resident Inspector received initial notification of this occurrence from the licensee at 3:35 p.m. on August 21, 2000.

Region IV has informed EDO, NRR, and PA.

The information presented here has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of August 24, 2000, at 2 p.m. (CDT).

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