

August 11, 2003

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-03-022A

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

STP Nuclear Operating Company
South Texas Project Electric Generating Station,
Unit 1
Docket: 50-498
License No.: NPF-76

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: REACTOR VESSEL BOTTOM HEAD PENETRATION LEAKAGE - UPDATE

DESCRIPTION:

On April 12, 2003, during a visual inspection of the instrument penetrations on the bottom head of the Unit 1 reactor vessel, the licensee identified residue indicating a small amount of leakage from two instrument penetrations. At the time of the inspection, Unit 1 was shut down for a planned refueling outage. A Special Inspection was conducted May 5 through July 28, 2003, to review the licensee's actions.

A public exit meeting to provide the findings of the Special Inspection Team was conducted in Bay City, Texas, on July 28, 2003. Based on the results of the NRC's Special Inspection Team review and NRC Staff Evaluation, the NRC concluded that the STP Nuclear Operating Company had taken all necessary actions with respect to the bottom-mounted instrumentation penetration leakage issue to support the safe restart of STP, Unit 1. This conclusion was documented in a July 31, 2003, letter to the STP Nuclear Operating Company that granted approval for restart. The Unit was placed on the electrical power grid on August 9, 2003.

The State of Texas has been informed.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence from the Senior Resident Inspector on August 9, 2003.

Region IV informed the OEDO, NRR, SLO, and PAO

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