

October 18, 1996

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-IV-96-058

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.
Arkansas Nuclear 1
Russellville, Arkansas
Dockets: 50-313

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: FIRE IN CONTAINMENT

On October 17, 1996, the licensee declared a Notification of Unusual Event due to a fire in the containment. The fire was identified at 4:07 p.m. (CDT) and extinguished by 4:23 p.m.

The licensee was heating up in preparation for restart of the reactor following the completion of Refueling Outage 13. At 4:07 p.m., with the RCS at about 450 degrees F, operators noticed flames on the B Once-Through Steam Generator (OTSG) feedwater ring between the OTSG and the B Reactor Coolant Pump (RCP). The fire extended approximately eight feet along the feedwater ring and the flames were a maximum of 2 feet high. The fire appeared to originate from insulation panels on the feedwater ring. The operators were also fire brigade members and attempted to put out the fire with a CO2 extinguisher. The extinguisher put out the flames, but the flames reflashed when the extinguisher was empty. A fire hose was then taken to the site of the fire. The operators pressurized the firewater hose and used a light fog pattern to spray the insulation panels. After using about 50 gallons of water in about 3 to 5 minutes, the fire was extinguished by 4:23 p.m. Shortly thereafter, personnel with SCBAs arrived as a reflash watch. The conditions did not warrant that the SCBAs be utilized.

The licensee initiated a plant cooldown at 4:35 p.m. to investigate the event.

Observations by the licensee revealed that the fire was due to lubricating oil from the B RCP. There was some oil visible on the side of the OTSG flashing and on the side of the B RCP. Smoke and soot deposits were found on the insulation. Earlier in the outage, the licensee found and repaired a cracked weld on the discharge piping from the RCP high pressure lift oil pump. It appears that the oil sprayed out of the cracked weld during earlier oil lift pump operation.

The licensee terminated the Notice of Unusual Event at 5:35 p.m. since the RCS temperature was below the flashpoint of the oil and a reflash watch was present at the feedwater ring.

The licensee made a press release on October 17, 1996. The State of Arkansas has been

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informed. Region IV received initial notification of the event from the Headquarters Operations Officer.

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The licensee intends to inspect and/or replace all insulation in the affected area to ensure there is no presence of oil. The licensee is in the process of reestablishing a restart schedule based on the corrective actions for this event.

Region IV intends to assess the adequacy of the licensee's corrective actions and review the design of the reactor coolant pump oil collection facility. Region IV and NRR will conduct a conference call with the licensee at 1 p.m. (CDT) to discuss the event and design concerns with the reactor coolant pump oil collection facility.

Region IV has notified EDO, NRR, and PAO.

The information herein has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of October 18, 1996, at 12:15 p.m. (CDT).

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