

July 11, 1985

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-85-29

DmB

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 NRC staff on this date.

FACILITY: Louisiana Power & Light Company
Waterford Unit 3
Killona, Louisiana
Docket No.: 50-382

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

SUBJECT: INFORMATION ON THE EFFECTS OF GASEOUS ACTIVITY IN RADIOLOGICAL CONTROL AREAS

The licensee has reported that since he has achieved 100% power, there has been an increase in gaseous activity in accessible radiological control areas of the plant, such as the auxiliary building. The gaseous activity levels are well within 10 CFR 20 limits. The principal nuclides are Xenon and Krypton. The daughter decay products of these nuclides, rubidium and cesium, are short-lived ionic nuclides which readily attach themselves to surfaces charged with static electricity.

The experience at Waterford, the licensee reports, has been that people in one of these areas where there is some gaseous activity will pick up the daughter products on their hardhats or polyester clothing. This causes the exit portal monitors to alarm when these people exit the areas. To correct this, some people are required to wait at the exit point for 15 minutes before passing through the exit portal monitor to allow for these short-lived nuclides to decay away.

The licensee is trending his primary coolant activity and is trying to determine the source of the gaseous activity. It is believed that such sources as positive displacement charging pump gland leak-off are contributing to the gaseous activity.

This information is current as of 8:00 a.m. on July 11, 1985.

No press release is planned by the licensee.

The state of Louisiana has been informed.

CONTACT: E. H. Johnson, FTS 728-8141.

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