

December 6, 1985

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-85-62

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:

Gulf States Utilities  
River Bend Nuclear Generating Station  
St. Francisville, Louisiana  
Docket: 50-458

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

SUBJECT: SMALL RELEASE OF NOBLE GAS ACTIVITY WITHIN THE OFF-GAS BUILDING

At approximately 8:20 a.m. on Friday, December 6, 1985, the plant off-gas system experienced a transient upon the automatic switchover from dryer "A" to dryer "C". This transient occurred when the discharge valve on dryer "C" failed to open and resulted in a back pressure which blew out all of the water loop seals of the system. One of the water loop seals discharges to the radwaste dirty waste sump in the off-gas building condensate demineralizer room. As a result, some noble gases were released into this room.

There were construction painters and insulators working in this room and 37 people were detected with contamination upon exiting the radiological control area. Ten people had some body contamination and 27 people had only clothing contamination. This contamination was due to noble gas daughter products and decays off in a relatively short period of time. Personnel were held for approximately 20-30 minutes and subsequent body counting revealed no discernable contamination. NRC and licensee are investigating the incident.

Neither the licensee nor the NRC plans to issue a press release.

The state of Louisiana has been informed.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by the SRI at 12:53 p.m. on December 6, 1985.

CONTACT: E. H. Johnson, FTS 728-8106

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Transmitted via 5520 - 12/6/85 @ 4:40 p.m. sk