



NRC NEWS

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NRC REGION IV OFFICE IN ARLINGTON, TEXAS IMPLEMENTS HURRICANE RESPONSE PROCEDURE FOR AREA NUCLEAR PLANTS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Region IV office in Arlington, Texas has implemented its hurricane response procedure for monitoring of Hurricane Lili at the Waterford and River Bend commercial nuclear power plants near New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and the South Texas Project plant near Bay City, Texas.

The office will activate its Incident Response Center at 4:00 p.m. (CDT) today. NRC inspectors from the Region IV office are currently at each of the three plant sites reviewing preparations for the impending severe weather. NRC regional administrator Ellis Merschhoff said the agency will dispatch an NRC liaison to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Region 6 office in Denton, Texas, on Thursday morning and will maintain frequent communications with the states of Louisiana and Texas as needed.

Merschhoff said that, while none of the plant sites are currently projected to be directly in the path of hurricane force winds, there is an increased concern for the possibility of damage from tornados, wind damage to facilities offsite, and flooding of evacuation routes.

Lili is expected to make landfall in central Louisiana as a Category 4 hurricane sometime Thursday afternoon.

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