

October 13, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-00-028

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

Omaha Public Power District
Fort Calhoun Station
Omaha, Nebraska 68023
Docket: 50-285 License No.:DRP-40

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: REACTOR SHUTDOWN TO REPLACE DEGRADED REACTOR COOLANT PUMP SEAL PACKAGE

DESCRIPTION: Fort Calhoun Station licensed operators began an orderly shutdown of the reactor at 7:00 p.m., on October 12, 2000, to replace a degraded seal package in Reactor Coolant Pump A. Licensee personnel had observed indication of middle seal failure and significant degradation of the lower seal. Licensed operators plan to be in cold shutdown on Monday October 16, with a hot mid-loop scheduled for late Monday or Tuesday Morning. The reactor currently has approximately 90 pin-hole leaks in fuel cladding and the licensee expects elevated levels of noble gas and iodine in containment during the seal replacement. The licensee has limited access and work in containment to the replacement of the degraded seal package and replacement of the seal package on Reactor Coolant Pump B. Pumps C and D both had new seal packages installed during the most recent refueling outage.

At 9:00 a.m., on October 13, the reactor was at 62 percent of rated thermal power. The licensee expects to open the generator output breaker Saturday morning October 14. Licensed operators have been briefed on abnormal operating procedures and the increased potential of rapid seal degradation. The licensee is also conducting site-wide training on the expected radiological conditions during the outage, with job specific training of maintenance personnel in an effort to reduce the time expended and dose received during the work in containment.

An NRC resident inspector will be in the control room to observe the entry into mid-loop and ensure proper shutdown cooling and controls.

The State of Nebraska has been notified.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the Senior Resident Inspector at 10:15 a.m., October 12. Region IV has informed the OEDO, PAO, and NRR.

The information is current as of 9:00 a.m. CDT, on October 13, 2000.

CONTACT: David P. Loveless
817/860-8161