

October 18, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-00-029

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

Nebraska Public Power District
Cooper Nuclear Station
Brownville, Nebraska 68321
Docket: 50-298 License No. DPR-46

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: REACTOR SCRAM WITH PLANT SHUTDOWN GREATER THAN 72 HOURS

DESCRIPTION: On October 14 at 3:24 a.m. CDT, the Cooper Nuclear Station main generator tripped on a Phase C differential current signal when a current transformer on the main transformer failed. A reactor scram followed on turbine governor valve fast closure. Peak vessel pressure was 1068 psig and was controlled with the bypass valves. Safety relief valves did not lift during the event. Safety system actuations included an alternate rod insertion and Containment Isolation Groups 2, 3, and 6 on low reactor water level caused by shrink. Additionally, a feedwater pump trip occurred on high reactor water level caused by excessive feeding and swell. The lowest reactor vessel water level recorded was approximately -20 inches on the wide range indicators. Operators were able to quickly restart Feedwater Pump A and feed the reactor vessel. Feedwater Pump B failed to reset because of high differential pressure across the oil filter.

In addition to repairing the current transformer, licensee mechanics located an approximately 5-foot opening in the boot upstream of the cooling coils on Containment Cooling Fan Unit D. The licensee has summarized that the resulting bypass flow was the primary reason for the high drywell temperatures observed throughout the past summer. Licensee maintenance technicians also performed modifications to the safety-relief valve tailpipe pressure switches. Engineers had previously identified that these switches were not qualified in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.49.

Licensee personnel have completed the forced outage physical work, with the exception of troubleshooting and repair of the current transformer, and final paperwork review and verifications for restart are being conducted.

The State of Nebraska has been informed.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the Senior Resident Inspector on October 18. Region IV has informed the OEDO, PAO, and NRR.

The information has been verified by the licensee and is current as of 1:00 p.m. CDT, on October 18, 2000.

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