PRIORITY ATTENTION REQUIRED MORNING REPORT - REGION IV DECEMBER 4, 2000

Licensee/Facility: **Notification:**

Omaha Public Power District MR Number: **4-00-0019**
Ft Calhoun 1 Date: 12/04/00
Fort Calhoun,Nebraska Resident Inspectors
Dockets: 50-285
PWR/CE

Subject: REACTOR COOLANT SYSTEM LEAK IDENTIFIED AND REPAIRED
(Event No. 37560)

Reportable Event Number: N/A

Discussion:

On December 1, 2000, at approximately 5:30 a.m., the licensed operators determined that approximately a 1 gallon per minute leak from the reactor coolant system existed inside containment. Technical Specification 2.1.4 directed the operators to initiate a shutdown within 12 hours if the source of leakage could not be identified. Licensed operators began reducing reactor power at approximately 7 a.m.

The licensee notified the NRC in accordance with 10 CFR 50.72 that they had initiated a Technical Specification required shutdown (Event Notification 37560). Subsequently plant personnel identified that the source of leakage was from the charging line, upstream of the regenerative heat exchanger. At 8:38 a.m. on December 1, Technical Specification 2.1.4 was exited, because the source of the leakage had been identified. Operators secured the charging system, thus isolating the leak.

Operators maintained reactor power level at 88 percent while repairs were made. The leak came from a cracked socket weld in an elbow joint on the 2-inch charging pump discharge piping, upstream of the regenerative heat exchanger. Maintenance personnel performed a repair of the cracked weld in accordance with ASME Code Section XI. Following the repair, maintenance personnel also reinforced the weld on the opposite side of the elbow from the crack. Licensee personnel then performed inspections of charging system piping and found no additional indications of degradation or leakage.

Following piping performance testing, operators returned the charging and letdown system to service at approximately 1:30 a.m. on December 2, 2000. Licensed operators then increased reactor power, achieving 100 percent power at approximately 8 p.m. on December 3, 2000.

Regional Action:

Routine resident inspector followup.

Contact: David Loveless (817)860-8161 Wayne Sifre (817)860-8193