

June 25, 2001

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-01-025

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  
Docket: 50-298  
License: DPR-46

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

SUBJECT: FIRE AFFECTING THE STARTUP TRANSFORMER AT COOPER NUCLEAR STATION

DESCRIPTION:

On June 25, 2001, at 4:33 a.m. (CDT), Cooper Nuclear Station entered a Notification of Unusual Event when an electrical fault in a potential transformer resulted in a fire that affected the startup transformer. At 4:55 a.m. an Alert was declared for a fire potentially affecting safety equipment. The startup transformer de-energized, resulting in a loss of power to one of the two reactor recirculation pumps. Reactor power was reduced to approximately 68 percent in response to the loss of one reactor recirculation pump. The offsite fire department was notified; however, the fire was extinguished at 4:55 a.m., before the offsite fire department assistance was needed. The loss of the startup transformer also caused a loss of power to certain nonvital loads. The vital busses and the power conversion system for emergency equipment remained energized by offsite power sources; therefore, the emergency diesel generators did not start. The licensee exited the Alert at 9:08 a.m. after transmission and distribution personnel assessed the damage.

The Region IV Incident Response Center was activated in the monitoring phase of normal mode at 5:56 a.m. and remained active for the duration of the event (9:33 a.m.) when the licensee downgraded from an Alert status. The Senior Resident Inspector from Fort Calhoun Station was dispatched to Cooper to assist the onsite Resident Inspector.

The licensee's recovery actions include repair and return the startup transformer to service, reestablish nonvital power, and return the reactor to full power operation. The plant is currently operating at 68 percent in single-loop operations in accordance with Technical Specifications.

The states of Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska were informed.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the Resident Inspector at 5:05 a.m. on June 25, 2001. Region IV has informed the EDO, NRR, and PA.

This information has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 4:15 p.m. on June 25, 2001.

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