

February 5, 2002

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-02-007A

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

Union Electric Company
Callaway Plant

Docket: 50-483
License: NPF-30

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event

- Alert
- Site Area Emergency
- General Emergency
- Not Applicable

SUBJECT: UPDATE REGARDING CALLAWAY PLANT AUGMENTED INSPECTION TEAM
EVALUATION OF AUXILIARY FEEDWATER SYSTEM

DESCRIPTION:

On January 31, 2002, Region IV upgraded an ongoing Special Inspection to an Augmented Inspection Team. The upgrade was due to the identification of missing portions of the condensate storage tank (CST) floating diaphragm. The primary constituent of the peripheral area of the diaphragm is polyurethane foam. The presence of this foam coincident with the failure of an auxiliary feedwater (AFW) pump was considered to involve a potentially risk significant common-cause failure mechanism that could have resulted in the failure of multiple feedwater pumps, which are designed to remove decay heat from the reactor.

The licensee has inspected the CST, AFW system suction piping, AFW pumps, and portions of the discharge piping of all three AFW trains. The licensee identified pieces of foam in the CST sump and the Train A AFW pump casing vent and packing gland seal water cooling line. The licensee has subsequently removed the degraded diaphragm. While the plant was shutdown, the licensee also decided to replace the rotating assembly on the Train A AFW pump.

The team is currently collecting and evaluating data related to the failure of the Train A AFW pump. The team's preliminary review of the licensee's findings determined that the foreign material from the CST diaphragm had temporarily obstructed the suction of the Train A AFW pump.

The team continues to monitor the licensee's review of this condition. The team expects to complete the onsite review of licensee activities by February 6, 2002.

The state of Missouri has been notified.

This information has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 8:30 a.m. on February 5, 2002.

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