

December 24, 2003

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-04-055

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

TXU Energy
Comanche Peak Unit 2
Glen Rose, TX 76043
Docket: 50-446
License: NPF-89

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: OUTAGE LIKELY TO EXCEED 72 HOURS

DESCRIPTION:

At 8:27 a.m. CST on December 22, 2003, Comanche Peak Unit 2 reactor tripped following a turbine trip from an initial power level of 99 percent. The turbine trip resulted from a metal light fixture cover coming loose and falling onto the rotating element of the main generator exciter during a routine exciter inspection by maintenance personnel. The maintenance personnel reported a fire in the exciter because of sparks observed in the exciter housing. There was arcing and some smoke, but no actual fire. The unit stabilized in Mode 3 following the trip. One reactor coolant pump and one circulating water pump tripped during the transfer of power sources following the reactor trip. On December 24, the licensee was evaluating the extent of damage to the exciter and planning repairs that they expected would result in the unit outage exceeding 72 hours.

The state of Texas will be informed.

The licensee issued a press release on December 23. Region IV received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the Senior Resident Inspector on December 22, 2003, at 8:47 a.m. Region IV has informed the OEDO, NRR, and PA.

This information has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 9 a.m. on December 24, 2003.

CONTACT: William Johnson at 817-860-8148