

January 15, 2008

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-08-001

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, Arlington, Texas, staff on this date.

Facility

Wolf Creek Generating Station
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Company
Burlington, Kansas
Docket No. 50-482
License No. NPF-42

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: UNPLANNED SHUTDOWN GREATER THAN 72 HOURS DUE TO EMERGENCY CORE COOLING SYSTEM VOIDING (EVENT NOTIFICATION 43895)

DESCRIPTION:

On the evening of January 11, 2008, operators at Wolf Creek Generating Station shut down the plant in accordance with Technical Specification 3.0.3. Plant operators declared both trains of emergency core cooling systems inoperable when they discovered voiding in a portion of the suction piping of the safety injection and emergency charging pumps in excess of the plant's administrative voiding limit which assures operability of the systems.

Wolf Creek personnel discovered the condition when performing checks for voided piping found earlier on the discharge of one of the safety injection pumps. Further checks done after shutting down have revealed voiding in the piping on the suction of one of the residual heat removal pumps.

Wolf Creek Generating Station remains shut down pending actions to ensure that all emergency core cooling piping voids are removed and their source is understood and addressed to ensure that the emergency core cooling systems are operable. The NRC is issuing this Preliminary Notification because this unplanned shutdown has exceeded 72 hours.

The NRC resident inspectors responded to the plant shutdown and are monitoring licensee investigation and repair activities.

The State of Kansas will be informed.

The information in this preliminary notification has been discussed with the licensee.

This information is current as of 9:00 a.m. CDT on January 15, 2008.

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