March 17, 2008

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-08-003

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
Omaha Public Power District
Fort Calhoun Station
Fort Calhoun, NE 68023

Dockets: 50-285
Licenses: DPR-40

Licensee Emergency Classification
___ Notification of Unusual Event
___ Alert
___ Site Area Emergency
___ General Emergency
_X_ Not Applicable

SUBJECT: FORT CALHOUN STATION REACTOR TRIP AND SHUTDOWN EXPECTED TO BE GREATER THAN 72 HOURS

DESCRIPTION: On March 15, 2008, Fort Calhoun Station tripped due to a turbine trip. The resident inspectors responded to the site to monitor the shutdown.

On March 15, 2008, the unit tripped due to a malfunction of the electro-hydraulic control system that caused a turbine trip, resulting in a reactor trip. During and immediately after the unit trip, the licensee noted several abnormal indications and problems. These included the loss of a reactor coolant pump (RCP) due to failure of its bus to fast-transfer, plant computer indications of control rod position, valve leakage from the chemical and volume control system, abnormal seal pressure indications on the RCPs, and the trip of an emergency diesel generator air compressor due to thermal overload. The licensee has developed a forced outage plan to address these and other maintenance issues. The forced outage is expected to last greater than 72 hours. The plant is stable in Mode 3.

NRC resident inspectors will continue to follow the licensee's maintenance and testing activities and monitor licensee equipment restoration activities.

The states of Nebraska and Iowa have been informed. This information has been discussed with licensee management and is current as of 10:10 a.m. on March 17, 2008.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only. Routine NRC inspection follow-up is planned for this event.

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML080770301

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