June 12, 2008

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-2008-005

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	**Licensee Emergency Classification**
Kansas State University	___ Notification of Unusual Event
Manhattan, KS	_X_ Alert
	___ Site Area Emergency
Docket: 50-188	___ General Emergency
License: R-88	___ Not Applicable

SUBJECT: ALERT DECLARED DUE TO TORNADO DAMAGE TO KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY REACTOR FACILITY

DESCRIPTION: At approximately 11:15 PM CDT on June 11, 2008, a tornado moved through Manhattan, KS, and caused damage to several structures on the Kansas State University campus, including the building housing the university's research reactor. The reactor was shutdown and in a safe condition at the time of the event and remains shutdown and in a safe condition.

The licensee staff at the university declared an Alert in accordance with their operating procedures and notified the NRC at 12:21 AM CDT on June 12, 2008. There was a loss of electrical power at the site, but this type of reactor requires no active cooling.

NRC Region IV dispatched an inspector who arrived on site at 4:15 AM CDT and is currently on site monitoring conditions at the scene. The reactor is shutdown in a stable condition, and there has been no indication of a release of radioactivity, and the licensee is continuing to monitor. The licensee exited the Alert at 4:55 AM CDT on June 12.

NRC staff will continue to coordinate with the licensee to evaluate the effects to the facility from the passage of the tornado. The Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation is also dispatching a specialist inspector to the site today.

The state of Kansas has been informed. This information has been discussed with licensee management and is current as of 9:30 AM CDT on June 12, 2008.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only.

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML081640253

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