

March 15, 2019

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE - PNO-IV-19-001

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

Cooper Nuclear Station
72676 648A Avenue
Brownville, NE 68321
Docket: 50-298
License No.: DPR-46

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: COOPER NUCLEAR STATION DECLARATION OF A NOTIFICATION OF UNUSUAL EVENT DUE TO HIGH RIVER LEVEL

DESCRIPTION: With the plant operating at 100 percent power, the Cooper Nuclear Station (CNS) declared a Notification of Unusual Event (NOUE) at 5:46 a.m. CDT, on Friday, March 15, 2019, due to the elevation of the Missouri River reaching 899 ft Mean Sea Level (MSL). The elevation of the facility is 903 ft MSL.

On March 13, 2019, the CNS licensee informed the NRC that the Army Corps of Engineers had projected rising Missouri River levels above flood stage. Normal river level at the site is approximately 880 ft MSL. On March 13, 2019, based on projected river flood levels, the licensee began implementing their site flooding procedure, which required precautionary measures such as installing flood barriers to protect the facility. Should the river level exceed 901.5 ft MSL, the licensee plans to place the plant in a safe shutdown condition. Current water levels are not expected to exceed the plant elevation level, and all safety systems remain functional.

The NRC resident inspectors are onsite and continue to monitor related licensee activities.

In addition, Fort Calhoun Station, located approximately 100 miles north of Cooper Nuclear Station, which has been permanently shutdown since 2016, has experienced some onsite flooding. They have implemented flood protection measures such that the spent fuel at the site is in a safe condition. All spent fuel cooling systems remain functional. NRC inspectors are onsite monitoring the licensee's activities.

The States of Nebraska, Missouri, and Iowa have been notified.

The information presented herein has been discussed with the license and is current as of 1:30 p.m., March 15, 2019.

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML19074A316
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