

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Date: August 20, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURENCE--PNO-III-80-156 Page 1 of 2

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff as of this date.

Facility: Wisconsin Public Service Corporation
Kewaunee Site
Docket No. 50-305
Kewaunee, WI

Subject: REACTOR TRIP AND BUS FAULT

During an electrical storm the Kewaunee plant lost instrument busses 1 and 4 and the associated inverters for those busses. The reactor tripped at 11:00pm on August 19, 1980, and safety injection and containment isolation were automatically initiated. The reactor coolant pumps tripped on SI and natural circulation was established in the reactor coolant system. Containment isolation and safety injection were reset at 11:20pm. At 1:15am on August 20, 1980, the Reserve Auxiliary Transformer tripped and at 1:25am an electrical fault and fire occurred on the bus between the Reserve Auxiliary Transformer and 4160V. busses 1-1 and 1-2. The plant fire brigade responded and verified that the fire was extinguished. The local fire department was not required as the fire was self extinguished.

During the event, offsite power was always available to one ESF bus through the Tertiary transformer. The other ESF bus was supplied power by the Reserve Auxiliary transformer except during a one hour period (1:15am - 2:15am) when it was powered by an emergency diesel genefator.

The plant will be shutdown at least two days while the two inverters and the faulted bus are repaired. The reactor is in hot shutdown and on natural circulation and is being cooled through the atmospheric dumps. NRC inspectors (regional and resident) are onsite reviewing the event and monitoring ongoing activities.

The licensee is investigating the nature of the inverter and bus failures and planning corrective actions. This is the third aluminum bus failure at Kewaunee over a period of years and is being closely reviewed by the NRC.

The licensee plans to make a news release. At the present time the NRC does not plan to make a news release. The State of Wisconsin is being notified.

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The licensee informed the NRC of the reactor trip at 11:45pm, August 19, 1980, on the Emergency Notification System (red phone). Updated information was received at the ERC at 1:30am and 6:00am on August 20, 1980. The resident inspectors supplied the sequence of events and other information at 10:00am. This information is current as of 11:00am.

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