

Pauler

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

March 11, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-80-12

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 on this date.

FACILITY: Public Service Company of Colorado
Fort St. Vrain
Platteville, Colorado
Docket No. 50-267

SUBJECT: CIRCULATING WATER COOLING TOWER DISTRIBUTION HEADER FAILURE

There was an apparent failure of the Circulating Water Cooling Tower Distribution Header at 4:55 a.m. (MST) on March 11, 1980. The plant operators noted a higher than normal make-up rate. On discovery of the excess of water around the Circulating Water Cooling Tower, an orderly shutdown of the plant was initiated. The reactor was at 36 percent power level at the time of the event. The Turbine Generator was manually tripped at 5:32 a.m. (MST) and the reactor was manually tripped at 6:00 a.m. (MST). The plant is being cooled down via the shutdown Cooling Heat Exchanger and the Service Water Cooling Tower. The B&C Helium Circulators are in operation. The circulator pelton wheel drives are being supplied by the condensate system.

Time required to make repairs is unknown at this time.

Region IV (Arlington, Texas) was initially notified at 8:15 a.m. (CST) by the Headquarters Duty Officer.

The licensee plans to make a press release. Region IV does not plan to make a press release.

Fort St. Vrain is a high temperature gas cooled reactor.

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