

This report contains the highlights of the Fort St. Vrain, Unit No. 1 activities, operated under the provisions of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Operating License, DPR-34. This report is for the month of March, 1980.

1.0 NARRATIVE SUMMARY OF OPERATING EXPERIENCE AND MAJOR SAFETY RELATED MAINTENANCE

1.1 Summary

At the beginning of this period, preparations were made for plant startup. On March 5, 1980, at 0250 hours, the turbine generator was synchronized and the electric load increased to eighty megawatts. On March 6, 1980, the turbine generator actual overspeed tests were performed. The unit was resynchronized after the test, and the electrical load was increased to one hundred megawatts.

Excessive oxidant contaminants in the primary coolant helium, as well as various control system problems caused the electrical load capability to be somewhat variable over the next several days of operation.

1.2 Operations

Early in the morning of March 11, 1980, the east side return water distribution header on the main cooling tower ruptured. Large amounts of circulating water spilled over the distribution box near the rupture onto the ground. The yard drainage system in this area did not have the capability to handle this quantity of water, resulting in the water level in the surrounding area to reach a depth of several inches. Some of this water entered the manhole containing cables and associated conduits for the circulating water pump system. This water damaged several electrical motors of the circulating system. The main turbine generator was tripped and the reactor scrammed when it was evident that condenser vacuum could not be maintained. Repairs were made and the reactor was brought critical again on the same day, but because of the damage to the circulating water pumps and the loss of acceptable feedwater chemistry, reactor power could not be increased above two percent until March 15, 1980.

On March 16, 1980, the "number two" auxiliary boiler tripped off the line from undetermined causes. During the attempt to start "number one" auxiliary boiler, some boiler tubes were damaged due to low water level in the drum which rendered "number one" boiler inoperable. "Number two" boiler was repaired and restarted after this occurrence.

The turbine generator was synchronized on March 16, 1980, and load was gradually increased to two hundred thirty megawatts on March 18 and remained at that level until March 21, 1980.