

Docket: 50-267

JAN 19 1982

Public Service Company of Colorado
ATTN: Mr. O. R. Lee, Vice President
Electric Production
P. O. Box 840
Denver, Colorado 80201



Gentlemen:

An inherent problem has been discovered with the new (4 wire) Emergency Notification System (ENS) telephone circuit. The problem is described here along with a simple method of prevention which should be used until telephone engineers complete equipment modifications.

After a call has been established (the originator of the call makes no difference) and terminated on the ENS circuit, if a receiver is picked up at a facility before the circuit light is off, the telephone circuit for that facility will "lock up." This results in the facility not being able to call out on the ENS circuit and the NRC Headquarters not being able to call the facility. After "lock up" occurs a telephone serviceman will be required to disconnect and reconnect the phone circuit at the Headquarters switchgear. For example:

The NRC Headquarters calls an operating power reactor for daily plant status. The reactor facility answers the call and gives the necessary information, after which, both parties hang up. The facility, realizing that he forgot to give some item of information, picks up the ENS quickly, trying to catch the NRC Headquarters before Headquarters hangs up their phone. This type of action results in "lock up."

To prevent "lock up" from occurring, the facilities should ensure that a second call is not established within 20 seconds after the original call. NRC Headquarters will be monitoring all ENS phone line indicators and will inform the facility when lock up occurs and provide a commercial phone number to use to contact NRC Headquarters. In addition, the NRC will contact the telephone company and initiate the necessary action to release the "lock up."

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Telephone company engineers have found a solution to permanently correct the "lock up" problem. Until the "fix" can be applied, we appreciate your cooperation in helping us minimize the phone circuits being "locked up" and therefore maintaining the integrity of the Emergency Notification System.

Sincerely,

John T. Collins
Regional Administrator

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