

March 7, 1994

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-IV-94-006

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 staff on this date.

Facility

Nebraska Public Power District
Cooper 1
Brownsville, Nebraska
Dockets: 50-298

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: PLANT SHUTDOWN LASTING OVER 72 HOURS

On March 2, 1994, at 5:45 p.m. (CST), a reactor scram occurred from 97 percent power when the turbine control valves partially closed causing reactor pressure and reactor power to increase. After the high flux scram, reactor water level decreased to the high pressure coolant injection initiation point of -25 inches and then recovered. The licensee declared an unusual event due to the emergency core cooling system initiation and injection into the reactor vessel. At 9:21 p.m., the licensee terminated the unusual event when the reactor was stable and all emergency procedures were exited. On March 3, 1994, the plant reached cold shutdown.

Region IV responded to the site on March 3, 1994, to review the event and the licensee's post-rip review process. The licensee committed on March 4, 1994, to brief the NRC on the causes of the scram and the corrective actions taken prior to plant restart. The licensee identified the most probable cause for the turbine control valve closure on March 6, 1994, as a bad electronics card in the turbine electrohydraulic control system. The licensee believes that this amount of level decrease is not unusual for this transient.

The state of Nebraska has been informed.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the Senior Resident Inspector at 6:30 p.m. on March 2, 1994. Region IV has informed NRR, EDO, PAO.

This information has been confirmed with a licensee representative.

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