

February 11, 1992

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-92-11

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 Nuclear Station
Docket: 50-285

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

SUBJECT: PLANT SHUTDOWN REQUIRED BY PLANT TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

At 1:55 p.m. (CST) on February 10, 1992, the licensee declared the 250-vdc station 1B battery inoperable due to low voltage in Cell 88. On February 7, 1992, the licensee declared the 1A 250-vdc battery inoperable due to low voltage in Cell 110. Plant Technical Specifications require hot shutdown within 6 hours and cold shutdown within the next 30 hours with two station batteries inoperable. The licensee began plant power reductions and declared a Notice of Unusual Event (NOUE) at 1:55 p.m. on February 10, 1992. The plant was placed in hot shutdown at 7:30 p.m. on February 10, 1992, and achieved cold shutdown at 7:30 p.m. on February 11, 1992. The licensee secured from the NOUE at 8 a.m. on February 11, 1992.

After NRC discussions with the licensee regarding a low voltage event on the 1A battery, the licensee declared the battery inoperable. The licensee, as part of the quarterly surveillance testing on the 1A battery, had identified Cell 110 as reading 2.05 vdc. Plant Technical Specifications require each connected cell to have an individual cell voltage of 2.15 vdc. The acceptance criteria for the quarterly surveillance test. Compensatory battery testing identified the low voltage cell on the 1A battery at 2.06 vdc. It appears that the failure of the cells was caused by copper contamination that was introduced during the manufacturing process. The batteries, Model LCR 25, were supplied by the C&D Company.

The licensee currently plans on determining the cause of cell degradation and replacing the defective and potentially defective cells, as appropriate.

Neither the licensee nor the NRC plans to issue a press release.

The states of Nebraska and Missouri will be informed.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the HQ Duty Officer at 3:05 p.m. on February 10, 1992, and by licensee management. Region IV has informed the EDO, NRR, and PA.

This information has been confirmed with a licensee representative.

CONTACT: P. H. Harrell FTS 728-8250

Handwritten initials
RIV: DRP
AB: [unclear]
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