

January 31, 1996

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-IV-96-005A

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 Region IV staff in Arlington, Texas on this date.

Facility

Wolf Creek Nuclear Oper. Corp.
Wolf Creek 1
Burlington, Kansas
Dockets: 50-482

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: COLD WEATHER PROBLEMS CONTINUE

This updates PNO-IV-96-005, issued on January 30, 1996. At 5:58 p.m. (CST), on January 30, Train A of essential service water was declared operable and was in service. The Notification of Unusual Event was terminated at that time.

At 7:24 p.m. (CST), Train A of essential service water (ESW) was again secured because of pressure oscillations. After restoring the ESW Train A bay level and filling and venting the system the pump was restarted at 10:13 p.m. It could not maintain a steady discharge pressure because of intake bay level reduction and it was secured at 10:27 p.m.

The Train B residual heat removal system was placed in service at 8:13 p.m. (CST), and the plant cooldown was continued.

The licensee staffed but did not formally activate the technical support center at 2:45 a.m. (CST), on January 31. The NRC has remained in a monitoring mode. An agency briefing was conducted by the licensee at 8 a.m. At 8 a.m. on January 31, the average reactor coolant system temperature was about 206 degrees Fahrenheit and the licensee planned to maintain 205 to 210 degrees Fahrenheit.

At 10 a.m. (CST), on January 31, the licensee again declared a NOUE because of continuing concern with icing conditions affecting essential service water. The licensee sent divers to inspect the Train A essential service water intake bay. They suspected that the lake temperature may have inverted and could be freezing from the bottom. The divers reported that ice was piled against the trash racks from the surface to the bottom. Licensee efforts today will center on increasing the reliability of essential service water in anticipation of continued cold weather.

The electrical grid is currently stable with no known threats. The turbine driven auxiliary feedwater pump has been repaired and is available, but not tested. The licensee has contingency procedures for using the diesel fire pump to provide an alternate source of component cooling water, clean ice from the trash racks or to fill steam generators, if conditions should deteriorate. Two

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portable diesel generators have been brought on site for contingency purposes. Four trucks with a capability of heating water and pumping hot water have arrived on site to attempt to heat up the Train A ESW intake bay area.

There are no adverse road conditions in the site vicinity. Although no storms are expected in the area, continued extremely cold weather is forecasted.

Region IV has informed the States of Kansas and Missouri and FEMA Region VII.

The licensee issued two press releases on January 30 and one today. This information has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 12:30 p.m. (CST). Region IV has informed the EDO staff, NRR, AEOD and PA.

Contact: William Johnson
(817)860-8148

Phil Harrell
(817)860-8250