

February 5, 1996

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

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 & CONTROL ROD PROBLEMS (AUGMENTED INSPECTION TEAM)

This updates PNO-IV-96-005B, issued February 1, 1996. Both trains of Essential Service Water have been declared operable and the licensee terminated the Notification of Unusual Event (NOUE) at 10:05 a.m. (CST) on February 2, 1996. Region IV ceased continuous monitoring of the licensee's activities from the Incident Response Center following termination of the NOUE.

Control rod testing conducted on February 2-4, 1996, indicated that a total of eight control rods, including the five control rods that did not fully insert following the January 30, 1996, reactor trip, did not fully insert when tripped. Control Rod H2 paused at 96 steps, stopped at 90 steps, slowly inserted to 30 steps over the next 2 hours, and then was driven in. The remaining seven control rods stopped at various heights in the dashpot region. All control rods were tested, and the remainder of the control rods fully inserted when dropped, although a number of other rods did not exhibit the expected number of recoils. After testing all rods once, the licensee retested all rods that stuck, as well as those rods that failed to recoil more than twice when dropped. The subsequent testing generally repeated the above results.

The licensee decided to begin Refueling Outage 8, originally scheduled to begin March 2, 1996, instead of attempting a plant restart.

Region IV will dispatch an Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) to review the facts and circumstances regarding the events that have occurred as a result of the cold weather and subsequent shutdown. The AIT entrance meeting is scheduled to occur on February 6, 1996.

Region IV will inform the states of Kansas and Missouri and FEMA Region VII.

This information has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 11:30 a.m. (CST).

Region IV has informed the EDO staff, NRR, AEOD, and PA.

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