

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-92-033

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:  
Omaha Public Power District  
Fort Calhoun Station  
Docket Number: 50-285

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

SUBJECT: PLANT SHUTDOWN GREATER THAN 72 HOURS

On August 22, 1992, at 1:52 a.m. (CDT), a reactor trip occurred because the control valves for the main turbine went from 40 to 22 percent open. The partial shutting of the control valves resulted in a high pressure in the primary system and a subsequent reactor trip on high thermal margin/low pressure. After the trip, all systems functioned normally, except for Pressurizer Code Safety Valve RC-142.

A converter in the electrohydraulic control system, used to convert 120 Vac to 28 Vdc, failed and caused the control valves to reposition to the 22 percent open position. The partial closure of the control valves caused a partial loss-of-load condition and resulted in an increased pressure in the reactor coolant system to approximately 2400 psia. Valve RC-142 lifted and then fully shut. Pressure in the reactor coolant system was reduced to approximately 1725 psia. The power-operated relief valves did not open. Approximately 200 gallons of coolant was discharged to the pressurizer quench tank. The disk for the quench tank did not rupture. The setpoint of Valve RC-142, as required by the Technical Specifications, is 2500 +/- 25 psia. It appears that Valve RC-142 lifted prior to its setpoint pressure. The reason for the early lift is not currently known. All other safety systems functioned normally. The plant is currently in hot shutdown.

The licensee currently plans to test Valves RC-142 and RC-141 in place later today to determine the setpoint of the valves. If the setpoint is found to be incorrect, the licensee plans to adjust the setpoint in place.

Region IV has sent a special inspection team to the site to review the event and to observe the licensee's testing of the safety valves.

The licensee has issued a press release.

The states of Nebraska and Iowa will be informed.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the senior resident inspector at 2:15 a.m. (CDT). Region IV has informed the EDO, NRR, and PA.

This information has been confirmed with a licensee representative.

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(5520: 8/24/92 @ 11:45  
Regions & HQ)

(PHONE VERIF: 8/24/92  
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or 964-1166)