

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

March 5, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-80-10

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff on this date.

FACILITY: Public Service Company of Colorado
Fort St. Vrain
Platteville, Colorado
Docket No. 50-257

SUBJECT: MINOR HYDRAULIC OIL FIRE IN TURBINE BAY AT FORT ST. VRAIN

A hydraulic oil fire was discovered at 6:00 p.m. (MST) on March 4, 1980 in the Turbine Bay. The fire was due to hydraulic oil leakage from a valve flange on to hot steam traps. A security guard in making his rounds was present at the time the fire initiated and immediately extinguished the flame (within about a minute). The flame was stated to have been about one foot high and three feet in diameter. The local Platteville Fire Department was notified as required by plant procedures and responded, arriving approximately 15 minutes after the fire was out. Subsequently a Greeley Fire Department truck responded to the site approximately 40 minutes after the fire. A Greeley Tribune Reporter was on the fire truck and had to be asked by the licensee to leave the truck before admittance was granted to the Greeley Fire Department. The Channel 9 Denver TV station dispatched a helicopter to the site after apparently learning of the fire through their fire department radio net monitor. A report of the fire was on the 10:00 p.m. (MST) Channel 9 News.

No safety-related equipment was involved. The plant startup in progress was continued.

Region IV (Arlington, Texas) was initially notified at 9:25 a.m. (CST) on March 5, 1980, by the Region IV Resident Inspector.

The licensee has made a press release. Region IV does not plan to make a press release.

Fort St. Vrain is high temperature gas cooled reactor.

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