

April 7, 1988

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-88-26

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:
Fort St. Vrain
Platteville, Colorado
DN: 50-267

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

SUBJECT: UNPLANNED RELEASE

At 5:00 a.m. (MDT) on April 7, 1988, Fort St. Vrain was manually scrammed from 72% power by the control room operators on indication of a partial loss of circulating water flow and a report of flooding in the main cooling tower circulating water pump pit. A flexible joint failed in the circulating water pump pit and resulted in flooding of the circulating water pumps and motors. Cooldown was initiated using the steam generator power operated relief valves and the decay heat removal exchanger as the main condenser was not available for cooldown due to loss of the circulating water pump. The helium circulators were driven by the pelton wheels using the condensate system. All other systems functioned normally.

At 6:50 a.m. (MDT), an unusual event was declared due to the relieving of helium pressure from the core support floor vent system and the associated (although anticipated and monitored) unplanned release. At 8:20 a.m. (MDT) the release and unusual event were terminated. The release was estimated to be 157 millicuries of noble gas. The dose at the site boundary was estimated to be 1.53×10^{-5} rem.

At 9:10 a.m. (MDT) the core outlet temperature was 411°F and primary system pressure was 147 psia. Cooldown is continuing using the decay heat removal exchanger. The resident inspectors are on site. The Regional Deputy Administrator and Deputy Division Director for DRSS, who are visiting URFO in Denver, are planning to divert by the site today prior to returning to Region IV.

The utility has notified the state as a result of the unplanned release and the declaration of an unusual event. They also plan to issue a press release.

The plant will be down for repairs to the circulating water pump motors for an estimated three weeks.

Fort St. Vrain is a high temperature gas cooled reactor.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by the resident inspector onsite at 8:00 a.m. (CDT). Region IV has informed the EDO, NRR and PA.

This information has been confirmed with a licensee representative.

CONTACT: T. F. Westerman (FTS 728-8145).

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4/9/88

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5520: 4/7/88 @ 3:45 p
 REGIONS & HQ