

February 5, 1988

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-88-09A

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: Nebraska Public Power District  
Cooper Nuclear Station  
Brownville, Nebraska  
DN: 50-298

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

SUBJECT: SHUTDOWN IN EXCESS OF 48 HOURS

This PN updates PNO-IV-88-09, issued on February 1, 1988.

The licensee is continuing to investigate the ground associated with the B residual heat removal (RHR) pump motor. The failed motor was removed from the facility for evaluation by General Electric Company (GE). GE confirmed a ground deep in a motor coil and is continuing to evaluate the motor for possible generic problems.

The B RHR pump motor previously was discussed in NRC Information Notice 87-30, CRACKING OF SURGE RING BRACKETS IN LARGE GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY ELECTRIC MOTORS, issued on July 2, 1987. In November 1986, the licensee for Cooper Nuclear Station (CNS) discovered that three of four motors had broken lower surge ring brackets and that in the B RHR pump motor, five of six lower brackets were fractured. CNS installed surge ring brackets of an improved design and revarnished the motor insulation system to fill and bond the crack in the felt blocks that separate the windings at the end of the stator.

CNS has performed polarization indexing on the remaining Emergency Core Cooling System (ECCS) large vertical electric motors manufactured by GE with satisfactory results. CNS intends to perform DC high potential testing on two units from the remaining motors. One of the motors to be tested has approximately the same amount of run time as the failed B motor. The other motor to be tested has less run time but had a similar number of broken lower surge ring brackets in November 1986 as the failed B motor.

CNS has obtained a replacement motor for the failed B motor and is presently installing the replacement motor in the RHR system. Pending successful high potential testing of the sample motors previously described, CNS intends to perform the monthly surveillance tests for all the motors. Pending successful completion of the surveillance testing, CNS intends to commence a normal plant startup. Best estimate of startup, if all testing is successful, is Saturday, February 6, 1988. The senior resident inspector is following the licensee's actions.

(transmitted via 5520 -  
2/5/88 - 2:44p.m.) jc

RIV:DRP  
LJCallan:gb  
2/5/88

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RDMartin  
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There have been no news media inquires regarding this matter.

Neither the licensee nor the NRC plans to issue a press release.

Region IV received notification of the licensee's progress in telephone calls with the licensee at approximately 3:00 p.m. CST on February 4, 1988, and at 10:00 a.m. on February 5, 1988.

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