

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 III staff on this date.

Facility: Union Electric Company
Callaway Nuclear Plant
Steedman, MO 65077

Docket No: 50-483

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

Subject: NON-VITAL BREAKER TRIP

The licensee reported on April 23, 1986, that a non-vital DC circuit breaker was found to be tripped in the turbine building. The tripped breaker was discovered after several abnormal conditions related to this breaker were detected via annunciators at 4:53 p.m. (CST) by the control room staff. The licensee at first believed that the breaker may have been intentionally tripped by an unknown individual. But at about noon, April 24, 1986, a recently hired employee stepped forward and said he believes he may have "inadvertently" tripped the circuit breaker. This individual, an equipment operator in the Rad Waste Building, has been questioned by licensee personnel. A Region III inspector, who had been dispatched to the site to investigate the incident, will also question the individual today. Licensee and NRC inspections will continue.

The reactor was operating at 30 per cent power when the incident occurred. The tripping of the breaker deenergized a non-vital electrical panel, resulting in the loss of miscellaneous DC indication and control, the automatic starting of the motor-driven auxiliary feedwater pump, let down isolation and subsequent pressurizer level increase, isolation of steam generator blowdown, and loss of power for a number of fire alarms and various non-vital equipment.

Control room personnel responded properly to the conditions resulting from the breaker trip. The licensee has increased its security surveillance and operators are walking down all electrical panels and plant systems to detect any abnormal conditions. They are also investigating the incident in an attempt to identify the person responsible for tripping the breaker. (There were 238 people on the site at the time of the incident.)

At the time of the incident, the licensee was still in a position of heightened awareness as a result of earlier threats which had been received at the plant (Reference: PNO-III-86-22, 22A, 36).

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The Resident Inspector was onsite at the time of the incident. The inspectors will perform an independent inspection of electrical panels and systems to detect any abnormal conditions.

The Information Assessment Team has been informed of the incident and of the subsequent developments. The local Callaway County Sheriff and the local FBI office have been notified by the licensee.

The State of Missouri will be informed.

The licensee notified the Headquarters Duty Officer of the incident at 6:47 p.m. (CST), April 23, 1986. This information is current as of 3 p.m., April 24, 1986.

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