

May 2, 1986

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-86-15

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
Fort Calhoun, NE
Docket: 50-285

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

SUBJECT: INADVERTENT RELEASE OF RADIOACTIVE GAS

At approximately 9:35 PM CDT, May 1, 1986, the licensee notified the headquarters Duty Officer that an unusual event was declared at 9:05 PM CDT due to a radioactive gas release from the volume control tank into the auxiliary building. The release path was isolated in 2 to 3 minutes. The auxiliary building ventilation isolation actuation occurred, terminating the offsite release. The radiation monitors on the main condenser off-gas and the letdown flow system remained at normal levels. The auxiliary building was evacuated. The plant remained in operation at full power throughout the event.

The apparent cause was a leak in the sample system return line following a normal sampling of the volume control tank gas. The chemist taking the sample received minor contamination of his clothing.

The licensee's preliminary calculations indicated that the maximum radioactive gas activity (gross activity) for the 5-minute release was 1.55 E^{-7} micro Ci/cc (approximately 50% of the technical specification limit); however, the instantaneous release limit (10 CFR 20) for the isotope Xenon-133 was exceeded at the site boundary by a factor of two.

The unusual event was terminated at 2:39 AM CDT, May 2, 1986.

The licensee is continuing investigation of the event and is in process of returning the auxiliary building ventilation to normal.

The licensee has responded to news media inquiries.

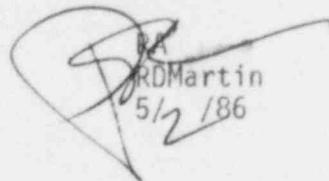
Neither the licensee nor the NRC plans to issue a press release.

The states of Nebraska and Iowa have been informed.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by phone from Headquarters Duty Officer at 9:30 PM, CDT. Region IV has informed IE, NMSS, NRR, SP, PA.

CONTACT: D. R. Hunter (FTS 728-8103).

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EHJohnson:cnm
5/2/86


RDMartin
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PDR I&E
PNO-IV-86-015 PDR

Transmitted 1:54PM, May 2, 1986. (5520)

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