

October 5, 1987

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-87-52

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: Public Service Company of Colorado
Fort St. Vrain
Platteville, Colorado
DN: 50-267

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

SUBJECT: HYDRAULIC OIL FIRE IN TURBINE BUILDING

At approximately 11:59 p.m. (MDT) on Friday, October 2, 1987, the licensee experienced a fire in the turbine building. The reactor was in startup at 26 percent power, with the turbine not yet on line. The fire ultimately resulted in the plant losing both loops of reactor coolant flow and the reactor was tripped. Coolant flow was restored in approximately 20 minutes which is well within the limits of the design basis accident. The apparent cause of the fire was the failure of a filter in the 3000 psi hydraulic system. The licensee manually tripped the reactor, and the fire was extinguished by the fire brigade. The local fire department was called and did respond. The licensee declared an ALERT. There were no unplanned releases but the stack monitors for iodine were lost because of fire damage to cabling. Backup monitors were available and usable.

The region and headquarters dispatched a joint AIT on Saturday. The licensee terminated the ALERT at 8:15 a.m. (MDT) on October 3 and brought the plant to cold shutdown by Saturday afternoon using normal means (and has demonstrated that all emergency cooling methods are available).

The state of Colorado has been informed.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by telecon from the HOO at 2:30 a.m. (CDT) on October 3, 1987. Region IV has informed EDO/NRR/PA.

The event resulted in heavy media coverage in the plant area and some coverage by national news agencies. Public Service Company of Colorado began responding to inquiries about 2:00 a.m. (MDT) October 3 and both the company and the State of Colorado issued a joint statement two hours later. NRC public affairs officers in both Region IV and HQ also are continuing to respond to inquiries.

This information has been confirmed with a licensee representative.

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PNO-IV-87-052 PDR

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