

PRIORITY ATTENTION REQUIRED MORNING REPORT - REGION IV FEBRUARY 14, 2000

Licensee/Facility:

Notification:

Union Electric Co.
Callaway 1
Fulton, Missouri
Dockets: 50-483
PWR/W-4-LP

MR Number: **4-00-0009**
Date: 02/14/00
Telephone from Resident Inspector

Subject: AUTOMATIC REACTOR TRIP ON LOSS OF REACTOR COOLANT SYSTEM FLOW

Reportable Event Number: 36685

Discussion:

On February 13, 2000, at approximately 7:34 a.m., the reactor at Callaway Plant, located near Fulton, Missouri, tripped due to low reactor coolant system flow. For the 12 minutes immediately prior to the reactor trip, the site had experienced fluctuations in offsite voltage. These fluctuations caused reactor coolant Pump B to trip on a current phase imbalance and resulted in the reactor tripping on low reactor coolant system flow. Immediately following the reactor trip, the remaining three reactor coolant pumps also tripped on a current phase imbalance. Without forced reactor coolant flow, the reactor was cooled by natural circulation. The initiating cause of this event was a downed 161 kV power line in southeast Missouri, which was experiencing severe thunderstorms. Breakers designed to isolate the downed line did not open. This caused repeated high currents until a 345 kV/161 kV transformer, that provided the interface with the AMEREN UE electrical grid, failed. The affected power line, breakers, and transformer were owned and serviced by another (non-nuclear) utility. Following the trip, plant equipment responded properly.

After determining the cause of the reactor trip and verifying that the AMEREN UE grid was fully isolated from the faulted grid in southeast Missouri, the licensee commenced a reactor startup. The reactor was taken critical at 9:10 p.m. on February 13. The main turbine was synchronized to the electric grid at 5:18 a.m. on February 14. The plant is currently at 23 percent power. Power is being increased at 3 percent per hour.

Regional Action:

The resident inspectors will continue to monitor licensee actions.

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