

June 23, 1989

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-89-40

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
DN: 50-267

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

SUBJECT: OPERATION ABOVE AUTHORIZED POWER LEVEL

By letter dated July 2, 1987 (Murley to Williams), Fort St. Vrain was authorized to operate at power levels not to exceed 82 percent of full power. By corrected secondary heat balance calculations, it appears that power exceeded 82 percent from approximately 10:20 p.m. on June 22, 1989, until approximately 2:30 a.m. on June 23, 1989. The maximum calculated secondary heat balance power level during this period was approximately 83.6 percent. That power level is still under review by the licensee

During this period, the secondary heat balance indication in the control room read approximately 79.2 percent. The linear power channels of nuclear instrumentation read between 79.5 and 81.4 percent power.

At approximately 2:30 a.m. on June 23, 1989, the licensee discovered an apparent incorrect input into the secondary heat balance calculation (data logger). When this input was corrected, the indicated secondary heat balance power level changed from 79 to 82.5 percent. Power was immediately reduced below 82 percent. The licensee's evaluation of the interval during which the incorrect input was used for the secondary heat balance calculation indicated that the actual power level may have reached 83.6 percent at one point.

The licensee has reduced power to 65 percent until an evaluation of this event and a determination of root causes, corrective actions, and actions to prevent a recurrence are implemented. The NRC resident inspector is onsite.

The licensee paid a \$75,000 civil penalty in 1986 for exceeding a 35 percent power limitation which was in effect at that time, though the circumstances of that event were different from the present one.

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

The state of Colorado will be informed.

C:DRP/B
TFWesterman:cs
6/23/89

D:DRP
JLMilhoan
6/23/89

RA
RDMartin
6/23/89

IE 34
0/1

8907070082 890623
PDR I&E
PNO-IV-89-040 PDC

Region IV received notification of this occurrence from the HQ DO at 1:30 p.m. (EDT). Region IV has informed the EDO's office, the NRR project manager, and the region's public affairs officer.

This information has been confirmed with a licensee representative.

CONTACT: T. F. Westerman, FTS 728-8145

DISTRIBUTION:

OWFN			NMBB	NL	MAIL: DCS (Orig. IE34)
Chmn. Zech	SECY	NMSS	AEOD	RES	DOT (Transp. Only)
Comm. Roberts	CA	NRR	ARM		
Comm. Carr	OGC	OIA	OGC	FAX: (5520: <u>6/23/89 @ 4:40 p.m.</u>	
Comm. Rogers	GPA	OI		INPO	Regions & HQ)
Comm. Curtiss	PA	SLITP	H-St	PDR	
ACRS	EDO	OE	PDR	NSAC	
			EW-W	RRI	
			ASLAP	NRC Ops Ctr	
				Licensee (Reactor)	

NRCRES, RESPN	Research (Paula Dorm)
NRCRM, AEOD	AEOD (Patty Wilson)
NRCRM, BROWN	ARM (Karen Brown)
NRCRMP, OIADW	Inspector & Auditor (Displaywriter/PC)
NRCRMP, OIOW	Investigations (Displaywriter/PC)
1NRC02, OPAPN	GPA:Public Affairs (Glady Ordaz)
1NRC0304, SLIPN	GPA:State/Local Indian Tribes Program (Brenda Hill)
1NRC0304, NMSSPN	Nuclear Material Safety & Safeguards (Pat Graaf)
1NRC0506, NMSSPN	Nuclear Material Safety & Safeguards (Cathy Jenkins)
1NRC0708, OEPN	Enforcement (Betty Summers)
1NRC1112, NRRPN	Nuclear Reactor Regulation (Donna Berean)
1NRC1516, OGCPN	General Counsel (Edna Downs)
1NRC1718, ZECPN	Chairman (Lois Altoft)
1NRC1718, EDOPN	Executive Director for Operations (Doris Day)
1NRC1718, OCAPN	GPA:Congressional Affairs (Janice Hester)
NRCRI, RIPN	Region I
NRCRII, RIIPN	Region II
NRCRIII, RIIIPN	Region III
NRCRIV, RIVPN	Region IV
NRCRV, RVPN	Region V