

panel of the breaker had not been illuminated for approximately one year. Additional information is available in Preliminary Notification of Event [PNO-II-10-002](#) dated March 29, 2010, and can be found on the NRC's public website in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) under Accession No. [ML100880412](#).

BACKGROUND

The NRC previously issued two INs related to circuit breaker control power issues:

- (1) IN 1991-78, "Status Indication of Control Power for Circuit Breakers Used in Safety-Related Applications," November 28, 1991 (ADAMS Accession No. [ML082380373](#)).
- (2) IN 2007-34, "Operating Experience Regarding Electrical Circuit Breakers," October 22, 2007 (ADAMS Accession No. [ML072390061](#)).

The NRC issued IN 1991-78 to inform licensees of the importance of having control power for circuit breakers used in safety-related applications. This IN highlighted the importance of having control power indication for both safety-related and non-safety related applications. IN 2007-34 highlighted the importance of identifying possible causes for breaker problems including the lack of control power indication.

DISCUSSION

Industry operating experience shows similar control power fuse issues where the indicating lights were either dim or not illuminated. The loss or degradation of control power in circuit breakers can prevent the breaker from performing its design function of either opening or closing on demand. Although there is no regulatory requirement for the functionality of the non-safety related breaker discussed in this IN, industry operating experience describes instances of technical specification required equipment being rendered inoperable due to similar circuit breaker control power issues.

A recent review of breaker control power operating experience has determined that the following items are important to ensure proper breaker operation:

- the verification of control power indication for both safety-related and non-safety related circuit breakers during walkdowns
- the potential impact on safety-related equipment resulting from a loss of control power to non-safety related circuit breakers when they fail to open to isolate a fault

CONTACT

This IN requires no specific action or written response. Please direct any questions about this matter to the technical contacts listed below or the appropriate Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) project manager.

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Note: NRC generic communications may be found on the NRC public Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov>, under Electronic Reading Room/Document Collections.

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ADAMS Accession Number: ML101020184

TAC ME3754

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