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Repair schedule extended

Dan Piller

Oct. 28--A malfunction in the system that provides water to one of the steam generators at TXU Corp.'s nuclear generating plant at Glen Rose caused TXU to extend the plant's scheduled maintenance outage until next week.

The 2,300-megawatt Comanche Peak plant will stay at half capacity until the restart can be completed next week, TXU spokeswoman Kimberly Morgan said.

"The plant had been down for 19 days for maintenance, and we were beginning to bring it back up -- a process that takes several days -- when the incident happened," she said.

A report by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission which described the incident as a "nonemergency," said: "Oscillations were observed on the plant steam dump system. These oscillations caused a high steam generator water level that caused both main feed pumps to trip."

Morgan said that when the problem occurred early Friday, the generator was shut down again.

"The maintenance was done to fix the problem, and we are doing low-power testing," she said.

She said the water system involved helps to power the steam generators, not to cool the nuclear rods. Comanche Peak, in Glen Rose southwest of Fort Worth, provides 2,300 megawatts of the 18,300 megawatts of TXU's peak power load.

"We didn't regard this as any kind of power-supply emergency," said spokeswoman Dottie Roark of the Electrical Reliability Council of Texas, which operates the state's electrical transmission grid.

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