

## MIDWEST DIGEST

### Nuc. Plant Declares Low-Level Emergency

BROWNVILLE, Neb. (AP) — A nuclear power plant near Brownville in southeast Nebraska notified public and federal regulators early Tuesday that it was in a low-level emergency state because of flooding from the rising Missouri River nearby.

The Cooper Nuclear Station declared a "Notification of Unusual Event" at 2:06 a.m. CDT. The plant said in a statement that there was no threat to plant employees or the public.

The plant owner, Nebraska Public Power District, said the plant was operating safely.

NPPD said the declaration was the lowest of four emergency classifications set up by the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission for nuclear power plants.

NPPD said the declaration was a routine part of the plant's emergency-preparedness procedures for flooding. Whenever the river reaches 42.5 feet, the declaration must be made, NPPD said. The plant sits three miles southeast of Brownville, near the river.

NPPD said it could continue generating power at Cooper until the river hits 45.5 feet. Then it would be taken offline as a safety precaution.

The National Weather Service said the river was at 42.5 feet, 10.5 feet above flood stage, and was headed to near 42.9 feet later in the day. Then it was expected to fall.

The district provides power to about 1 million Nebraskans through retail service to about 80 communities and wholesale service to 52 towns and 25 rural districts and cooperatives.

### New Stamp Honors Black Filmmaker

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pioneer filmmaker Oscar Micheaux was honored Tuesday on a new U.S. postage stamp.

The 44-cent stamp is the latest in the agency's Black Heritage stamp series. It was released at ceremonies in New York and is on sale nationwide.

Micheaux was a director, screenwriter, producer and distributor who was involved in more than 40 films chronicling the experience of African Americans.

"His films not only entertained, they left audiences with a sense of encouragement, hope and inspiration," postal vice president Delores Killelte said in a statement.

According to a biography prepared by the NAACP, Micheaux was born near Metropolis, Ill., in 1884 and began writing stories while homesteading a farm in South Dakota.

He formed his own publishing company to sell his books and later formed a film company after becoming intrigued with movies.

He was the first African-American to produce a movie and later introduced the actor Paul Robeson in 1924.

Micheaux died in 1951.

### S.D. Ad Targets Driving And Texting

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — South Dakota's Office of Highway Safety hopes to raise awareness about the dangers of texting and driving through an ad campaign.

A 30-second public service announcement that starts airing on numerous TV stations in the state this week features a woman driving and texting while a child runs out into the street chasing a ball.

South Dakota is not among the 28 states with bans on text messaging for all drivers or among the nine states that prohibit texting by inexperienced drivers, according to the Governors Highway Safety Association.

Earlier this year, a bill that would have prohibited drivers in the state from sending or receiving text messages while driving failed in the Legislature. Supporters argued that texting drivers pose a danger to other motorists if they are distracted, but opponents argued the bill would impede on personal rights and amount to government interference.

A measure that would have prohibited 14- and 15-year-olds from using cell phones while driving with instructional or restricted permits also failed.

## Anheuser-Busch Donates Drinking Water To Flooded Areas In Neb.

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Anheuser-Busch is providing 2,156 cases — or more than 51,000 cans of drinking water — for use by Nebraska residents affected by flooding in Norfolk and along the Elkhorn River.

A truck loaded with donated water left the company's brewery in Cartersville Ga., on Monday afternoon. The water is scheduled to arrive at noon tomorrow to the local Anheuser-Busch wholesaler, Norfolk Beverage Company, 2420 West Omaha Ave. The water will then be delivered to the Orphan Grain Train, where a distribution point has been set up to make sure the water gets to residents in need.

"It's important for communities to pull together and lend a helping hand, and Anheuser-Busch is proud to provide drinking water to these people in need," said Peter Kraemer, vice president of Supply for Anheuser-Busch. "Our company has a long and valued relationship with our friends throughout Nebraska, so

we felt this is one way we could assist the area in its time of need."

Anheuser-Busch and its distributors provided a total of 210,042 cases — or more than 5 million cans — of packaged drinking water to victims of natural disasters in 2008 and 2009. These included wildfires in California; hurricanes and storms in Florida, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi and Texas; and flooding in New York, Iowa, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin.

Since 1988, Anheuser-Busch has donated more than 69 million cans of drinking water following natural and other disasters.

"Anheuser-Busch is in a unique position to provide water to those in need. Few corporations have the infrastructure to package beverages and distribute them quickly," Kraemer said. "When a flood like this strikes, very simply put, we have a responsibility to package and provide water to our neighbors."

## AT&T Acquires Alltel In South Dakota

PIERRE — The Federal Communications Commission notified the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission today that it has approved AT&T's acquisition of former Alltel assets in South Dakota.

Today's action culminates a process that began in June 2008 when Verizon Wireless announced its plans to purchase Alltel. Antitrust concerns by the Department of Justice resulted in Verizon Wireless agreeing to divest assets in markets in which Verizon Wireless and Alltel both operate, including South Dakota. In May 2009, AT&T announced it would acquire the Alltel assets in South Dakota, including spec-

trum, towers and subscribers, from Verizon Wireless.

The business transaction makes way for AT&T to begin transitioning their newly-acquired South Dakota network from CDMA to GSM, which are different technologies that allow the wireless transfer of information. Alltel uses CDMA; AT&T uses GSM. AT&T officials have relayed to the PUC they expect the transition to gradually take place over the next year.

The PUC filed comments with the FCC addressing AT&T's intentions regarding the Universal Service Fund; the buildout to unserved and underserved areas in the state; the transition of Alltel subscribers to the GSM network; and the

availability of roaming. Kolbeck had ex parte discussions with FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn and key FCC staff during which he stated support for the federal agency's approval of the transaction.

PUC representatives also met with AT&T officials throughout the process to advocate on behalf of South Dakota customers. "It was important to us to know how AT&T plans to handle the relationship with current Alltel customers," stated PUC Chairman Dusty Johnson. "We asked key questions, and received assurances, about communication with subscribers and the timeline for installation of GSM equipment once approval was achieved," he said.