

Equipment Problem At Nuke Plant Costly

BROWNVILLE, Neb. (AP) — A problem with emergency equipment at southeast Nebraska's Cooper Nuclear Station is adding to the cost of the plant's refueling shutdown.
Nebraska Educational Telecommunications reports that the cost of the shutdown, originally budgeted at \$31 million, has increased by \$5 million as a result of the problem.
The plant at Brownville was taken offline March 13 for a routine refueling operation. Nuclear Regulatory Commission spokeswoman Lara Uselding says a problem with an emergency backup generator was discovered during an equipment test.
Alan Dostal is the corporate nuclear business manager for Nebraska Public Power District, which operates the plant. He says he doesn't know how much more it will cost rate payers for electricity from other sources while the plant remains shut down.

Powerful Winds Cause Minor Damage In S.D.

RAPID CITY (AP) — Authorities say wind gusts of more than 70 mph on Saturday caused only minor damage throughout Rapid City and western South Dakota.
The South Dakota Highway Patrol says high winds flipped over a semitrailer on Interstate 90 near Kadoka. The patrol says the 51-year-old driver was taken to a hospital in Philip for injuries that were not life-threatening.
The Rapid City Journal reports that the highest recorded area wind gust on Saturday was 77 mph near Buffalo. In Rapid City, gusts were measured at 61 mph downtown and 66 mph at the airport.

Neb. DHHS Offers Emergency Workshops

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services is offering training workshops throughout the state for emergency technicians, first responders and the public.
The department announced its May workshop schedule for 22 towns throughout the state. Lesson topics include emergency vehicle operations, diabetes calls, methamphetamine calls, geriatric emergencies, farm accidents and other situations.
The courses are offered as part of a state program to provide initial and ongoing emergency technician training. Classes are subject to weather-related cancellations.
The full workshop list is available at <http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/ems/emscalendar.htm>.

Iowa Town Overwhelmed With Donations

MAPLETON, Iowa (AP) — The tornado-ravaged northwest Iowa town of Mapleton is facing a new problem: Too many donations.
KTIV in Sioux City reports that the town has been inundated with canned food, clothing, bottled water and other donations since an April 9 tornado destroyed more than 140 homes and businesses there. No one was killed.
Now, the town is running out of room to store the items, which had been piling up at the Mapleton Community Center. The items have been moved to the Maple Valley Bus Barn.
A lack of room wasn't the only reason behind the move. The community center is needed for upcoming graduation parties.
Maple Valley-Anthon-Oto High School Principal Dan Dougherty says the outpouring of donations and well-wishes from neighboring communities has been overwhelming and amazing.

UNL Booted From Top Research Group

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — After 102 years as a member of the Association of American Universities, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has been booted from the group of 63 top research universities.
UNL Chancellor Harvey Perlman informed faculty and staff Friday of the development via email, saying that two-thirds of AAU members recently voted to end UNL's membership.
UNL has been ranked at the bottom of the organization's membership for more than a decade, the Lincoln Journal Star reported in its Saturday edition.
"We have known we were at risk of this for 10 years and successfully fought off a similar threat in 2000," Perlman said. "I had hoped our extraordinary accomplishments and steep trajectory would have made us less vulnerable, but the AAU's approach to the

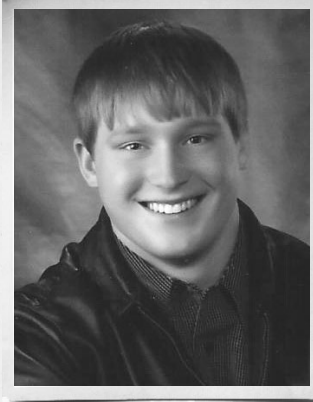
review made this result inevitable."
Rank is based on research expenditures, the number of faculty belonging to the National Academies of sciences and engineering and the Institute of Medicine and specified faculty awards and citations.
That criteria put UNL at an unfair disadvantage, Perlman said, because Nebraska's four-campus university system has a separate campus for its medical school. Most AAU institutions have in-house medical schools, which tend to get large amounts of research dollars, Perlman said.
The association also does not recognize research funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture — a major source of funding for UNL.
A study conducted last year by The Chronicle of Higher Education showed Nebraska's four-campus system would have

outpaced those of at least 11 AAU members.
Perlman told the Lincoln Journal Star that he believes UNL's membership in the AAU was a factor in the Big Ten Conference's invitation last year to UNL. All other members of the Big Ten are AAU members.
"I honestly don't think it's going to change anything," Perlman said of UNL losing its membership in the association. "I suppose it will be, in the short-term, an embarrassment."
The AAU decision will not affect efforts to win research grants, because those grants don't take into account whether an applicant is an AAU university, said Prem Paul, UNL vice chancellor for research and economic development.
Grant applications focus more on the quality of an idea and how supportive a university is toward research, as well as the quality of that institution's faculty, Paul said.

Neb. Firefighter Caught Spreading The Flames

LINCOLN, Neb. — It was after midnight, and the state fire investigator was chasing orange glows around southern Gage County.
First, a patch of burning grass near 148th Street and Olive Road. Then, in the distance, the glow of another, near Osage Road. Now a third fire, back toward Olive.
The winds that night would whip and fuel the flames; the investigator would call 911 and search for the next blaze.
He was chasing the fire-starter, too, that night earlier this month. He'd followed the suspect's pickup out of Wymore, keeping his distance but keeping an eye on its tail lights. When the truck turned onto a gravel road, the investigator stopped on a hill and cut his lights.
Two hours later, the investigator would arrest the man he believed started those fires — Bryan Campbell, a 44-year-old former volunteer firefighter.
The state fire marshal would later say it's uncommon for a

Nebraska firefighter to be charged with arson. And it would be rare indeed for an investigator to actually watch a suspect light a fire.
But there was something familiar about that night in Gage County.
Seven years earlier, the same investigator had visited the same spot near Olive Road with the same suspect.
Then, Campbell had confessed to starting a series of field fires — using cigarettes and matchbooks to make delayed fuses, using a police scanner to dodge the law.
On July 13, 2004, the investigator typed a detailed report, making his case for arresting Campbell.
At the end of his affidavit, he wrote: "Finally Campbell states that he would continue this activity if he doesn't receive help."
Bryan Campbell was born into the Wymore Volunteer Fire Department. His father was a leader, serving as chief, assistant chief, secretary, truck foreman. He's still on the squad, 52 years later.



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