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**Leak in cooling system closes Comanche Peak
Shutdown not termed emergency**

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Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant shut down at 6:52 a.m. today because of an apparent leak in a water system that cools steam. The shutdown is not considered an emergency and does not deal with the radioactive sections of the power plant, said George Hedrick, spokesman for plant owner TU Electric.

"The plant was shut down to find the cause and repair the leaks," Hedrick said. When the leak is found, officials will have a better idea of how long the plant must be shut down, he said.

A spokesman for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission said today the plant was shut down after sodium levels in the water in the non-nuclear portions of the plant became too high.

Tests early today showed that water from Squaw Creek Reservoir, the plant's cooling pond, had mixed with the water used for steam to operate turbines, Hedrick said.

The steam is allowed to flow over the tubes containing the water from the reservoir, to condense it and recycle it through the turbine. The turbine water will need to be chemically cleaned to remove any impurities that entered from the leak. Impurities can cause deposits and corrosion in the turbine, Hedrick said.

The plant near Glen Rose provides electricity to many parts of Tarrant County.