

February 3, 2003

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-03-004

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the Region III staff on this date.

Facility

Duane Arnold Energy Center
Nuclear Management Co., LLC
Palo, IA 52324
Docket: 50-331
License: DPR-49

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event
 Alert
 Site Area Emergency
 General Emergency
 Not Applicable

SUBJECT: SHUTDOWN TO INVESTIGATE AND REPAIR CONDENSER LEAKAGE

DESCRIPTION: At approximately 12:54 a.m. on February 1, 2003, the plant began an orderly shutdown after identification of a condenser tube leak that resulted in a rapid increase in reactor water conductivity. At 2:33 a.m., reactor operators manually scrammed the reactor from 50 percent power to limit further degradation of the primary system water.

The reactor was placed in cold shutdown to evaluate the potential impact of the degraded water chemistry and restore the chemistry to within acceptable limits. Additionally, the licensee will perform repair work to replace a section of pipe in the "A" residual heat removal service water system, fix a leak from the "3B" drywell cooler, and fix the drain valve for the "5B" feedwater heater.

The NRC resident inspectors responded to the plant to monitor licensee actions in response to the condenser tube leak and observed the reactor shut down. In addition, the residents are monitoring the licensee's investigation and repair efforts for the above activities.

The State of Iowa will be notified. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with utility management.

This information is current as of 9:00 a.m. on February 3, 2003.

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