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 FACIL:50-331 Duane Arnold Energy Center, Iowa Electric Light & Pow 05000331  
 AUTH.NAME AUTHOR AFFILIATION  
 HAMMOND,E.L. Iowa Electric Light & Power Co.  
 RECIP.NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION  
 KEPPLER,J.G. Region 3, Chicago, Office of the Director

SUBJECT: Notices of RO:during normal operation,plant heat rate & efficiencies were better than normally expected.Caused by violation of licensed core thermal power limit during prior operation.

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 TITLE: INCIDENT REPORTS

NOTES:-----

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AUG 2 1979

As of  
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Iowa Electric Light and Power Company

July 26, 1979  
DAEC-79-166

Mr. James G. Keppler, Director  
Office of Inspection and Enforcement - Region III  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
799 Roosevelt Road  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

**REGULATORY DOCKET FILE COPY**

Subject: Prompt Notification of a  
Reportable Occurrence

File: A-118a

Dear Mr. Keppler:

This letter, telecopied to your office, is intended to satisfy the requirement for prompt notification of a Reportable Occurrence in accordance with Specification 6.11.2a of the Duane Arnold Energy Center Technical Specifications.

Technical Specification paragraph(s) violated:

Description Occurrence: During normal operation it was determined that plant heat rate and efficiencies were better than normally expected. An investigation was initiated to explain this observation. The investigation centered around feedwater flow instrumentation as this is the largest contributor to the core thermal power calculation which, together with electrical output determines the calculated plant efficiency. During a plant outage on July 27 it was observed that internals of the equalizing valves on the valve manifolds for the flow transmitters for both feedwater trains were slightly "steam cut", allowing a small amount of bypass flow. The valves were lapped and reassembled. Upon plant startup plant heat rate and efficiencies were found to be close to expected values. Because of the above, the licensed core thermal power limit may have been violated during prior operation. Power operation is now within thermal limits. An investigation is continuing.

Very truly yours,

*Ellery L. Hammond*

Ellery L. Hammond  
Chief Engineer  
Duane Arnold Energy Center

ELH/JVS/glm

✓ Director, Management Information and Program Control (2)  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

cc: S. Tuthill  
L. Liu  
L. Root  
H. Rehrauer

7908010443

*Approved  
5/10*