Iowa Electric Light and Power Company February 22, 1980 DAEC - 80 - 80

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

Subject:

Licensee Event Report No. 79-040

(30 day)

File: A-118a

Dear Mr. Keppler:

In accordance with Appendix A to Operating License DPR-49, Technical Specifications and Bases for Duane Arnold Energy Center and Regulatory Guide 10.1, please find attached a copy of the subject Licensee Event Report. (Total of 3 copies transmitted).

Very truly yours,

Daniel L. Mineck Chief Engineer

Duane Arnold Energy Center

Docket 50-331

attachment DLM/JVS/n

Director, Office of Inspection and Enforcement (30) U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, D. C. 20555

Director, Management Information and Program Control (3) U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Washington, D. C. 20555

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DUANE ARNOLD ENERGY CENTER

Iowa Electric Light and Power Company

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT-Supplemental Data

Docket No. 050-0331

Licensee Event Report Date:

. 022080

Reportable Occurrence No:

79-040

Event Description:

During daily surveillance testing the suppression chamber oxygen concentration was found to be 4.3 percent. The drywell oxygen concentration was found to be 3 percent. Technical Specifications Section 3.7.A.5 requires the primary containment oxygen concentration to be less than 4 percent during reactor power operation. This is a repetitive occurrence (See RO 76-8 and RO 77-64). This event was initially evaluated as not reportable due to the belief that the drywell oxygen concentration would not be 3 percent if the suppression chamber oxygen concentration was greater than 4 percent because the drywell-suppression chamber differential pressure "pumpback" system was in operation. Although this evaluation may still be valid, subsequent investigation did not reveal any equipment problems to which the higher oxygen concentration could be attributed and thus this event was reclassified reportable.

<u>Cause Description</u>:

Exact cause is indeterminate. Surveillance records for previous and subsequent days do not indicate a continuing problem existed.

Corrective Action:

Suppression chamber inerting was begun immediately and the oxygen concentration was reduced to the Technical Specification limit in approximately 3 hours.

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