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 AUTH. NAME: AUTHOR AFFILIATION
 MINECK, D.L. Iowa Electric Light & Power Co.
 RECIP. NAME: RECIPIENT AFFILIATION

SUBJECT: R0: during annual surveillance insp, lower thrust bearing on standby diesel generator 1G-2 found slightly wiped on journal surface. Cause not stated. Bearing replaced. Vendor investigation underway.

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MAR 27 1980

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Iowa Electric Light and Power Company
March 18, 1980
DAEC - 80 - 145

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

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 6.11.2.a of the Duane Arnold Energy Center Technical Specifications.

Technical Specification paragraph(s) violated:

Description Occurrence: During an annual surveillance inspection the lower thrust bearing on standby diesel generator 1G-21 was found to be slightly wiped on the journal surface. The bearing has been replaced. Vendor investigation is continuing.

Very truly yours,

Daniel L. Mineck for

Daniel L. Mineck
Chief Engineer
Duane Arnold Energy Center

DLM/JVS/n

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

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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

CT

Date: March 14, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-III-80-47

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

Facility: Iowa Electric Light and Power Company
Duane Arnold Energy Center
Docket No. 50-331
Palo, Iowa

Subject: UNMONITORED OFFSITE RELEASE OF RADIOACTIVE WATER

This PN is issued to report the inadvertent release of circulating water containing some radioactivity into the Cedar River during the early morning hours of March 13, 1980.

The licensee had informed Region III at 3:00 p.m. on March 12, 1980 that as much as 540 gallons of condensate from the main condenser water box was inadvertently pumped into the circulating water pit. The primary source of this water was from two leaking main condenser tubes. The 540 gallons were diluted by the approximately 500,000 gallons of water in the circulating water pit. At that time, the licensee was in the process of determining the radioactivity in the circulating pit water, and no offsite releases had been made from the pit at that time.

At 2:30 p.m. on March 13, 1980, Region III learned that unanalyzed water had been pumped from the circulating water pit offsite through the dilution structure to the river for approximately 1 hour, 45 minutes during the early morning of March 13, 1980. This release was diluted by 1200-1500 gpm of well water in the dilution structure. After the release, an analysis of the condenser hot well water showed an activity of 4.9×10^{-4} uc/ml (gross beta-gamma, with certain isotopes identified). The condensate pumped into the circulating water pit on March 12, 1980, is assumed to have had this activity. At this time, the licensee is calculating the amount and the activity of the offsite release. However, based on the above data, the radioactivity released is believed to be less than 1 percent of the 10 CFR 20 limit for unrestricted areas.

The unit is currently in a refueling outage

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The licensee plans to issue a press release on March 14, 1980. Region III does not plan a news release at this time.

The State of Iowa is being notified.

The circumstances related to the release, as well as the licensee's failure to promptly report the release to the NRC, will be reviewed during an inspection to be conducted the week of March 17, 1980. Appropriate enforcement action will be taken.

This information is current as of 7:00 a.m., March 14, 1980.

INT
Contact: I. N. Jackiw, RIII, 384-2561

W.S.
W. S. Little, RIII 384-2552