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 ROOT, L.D. Iowa Electric Light & Power Co.
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 KEPPLER, J.G. Region 3, Chicago, Office of the Director

SUBJECT: Forwards response to Item 3 of IE Bulletin 79-26, "Boron Loss from BWR Control Blades." Shutdown margin test verified that full withdrawal of any control blade from enon-free core will not result in criticality.

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Iowa Electric Light and Power Company

May 8, 1980

LDR-80-135

LARRY D. ROOT
ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT
NUCLEAR GENERATION

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: Boron Loss From BWR Control Blades

Reference: IE Bulletin No. 79-26

File: A-101a

Dear Mr. Keppler:

Please find attached our response to Item 3 of IE Bulletin 79-26. A response to Item 4 will be submitted within the interval listed in Item 5 of the bulletin.

Very truly yours,

Larry D. Root

Larry D. Root
Assistant Vice President
Nuclear Generation

LDR/JVS/n
Attachment

cc: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Division of Reactor Operations Inspection
Washington, D. C. 20555

D. Arnold
S. Tuthill
L. Liu
D. Mineck
K. Meyer
D. Wilson
B. York
J. Van Sickle

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DUANE ARNOLD ENERGY CENTER

Response to NRC IE Bulletin No. 79-26

Item No. 3.a

At the next cold shutdown or refueling outage, conduct shutdown margin tests to verify that full withdrawal of any control blade from the cold xenon-free core will not result in criticality.

Response

A shutdown margin test was conducted on April 15, 1980 which verified that the full withdrawal of any control blade from the cold xenon-free core will not result in criticality.

Item No. 3.b

At the next cold shutdown or refueling outage, conduct shutdown margin tests to verify compliance with the shutdown margin requirement in a manner that accomodates the boron loss phenomenon (i.e., by including a plant specific increment in the shutdown margin that takes the potential loss of boron from control blades identified from evaluation of Item 1 into consideration).

Response

As per the General Electric Core Management Group in San Jose, California, there is no specific increment in the shutdown margin test for boron depletion unless the depletion is $> 34\%$. Since none of the DAEC control blades meet or exceed the 34% depletion criteria, no specific increment was included in the shutdown margin test.