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 DUBOST, E.L. Iowa Electric Light & Power Co.  
 RECIPIENT AFFILIATION  
 Region 3, Chicago, Office of the Director

SUBJECT: Updated LER 79-016/01X-1: on 790725, during normal operation, plant heat rates & efficiencies was determined to be better than normally expected. Investigation revealed leaking instrument causing measurement error.

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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: June 2, 1980

Reportable Occurrence No: 79-016, Update report, previous report 8-8-79

EVENT DESCRIPTION

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 21, 1979 it was observed that the 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 repaired and reassembled. Upon plant startup heat rate and efficiencies were found to be close to expected values. Calculations have since been performed which indicate the plant licensed thermal power limit was exceeded on several occasions during Cycle 4B operations. Because of this it can also be concluded that LHGR and the operating limit MCPR and MAPLHGR were also exceeded.

General Electric Company, the plant fuel vendor, has performed an evaluation of the over power effects and has concluded that the heat generation rate did not exceed fuel and cladding design limits. Since no design basis transients or accidents occurred, no safety limits were violated. Power operation is now within thermal limits. Reference Operating License DPR-49 and Technical Specifications, Sections 1.1 and 3.12.

CAUSE DESCRIPTION

The bypass flow through the valve manifold equalizing valves produced a low feedwater flow indication which in turn caused the core thermal power calculation to be non-conservative. Licensed thermal power was exceeded by approximately 2.5%. The manifolds were manufactured by Hex Industries.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

The equalizing valves were lapped and reassembled. The valve manifolds will be replaced during the 1981 refuel outage with manifolds of the same type used with RPS instrumentation in the plant. Also, a design change to add redundant feedwater flow indication will be implemented.

