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Iowa Electric Light and Power Company

December 31, 1980
DAEC-80-555

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. 80-062
(14 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/MSR/pl

cc: Director, Office of Inspection and Enforcement (40)
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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c/o Document Management Branch
Washington, D. C. 20555

NRC Resident Inspector - DAEC

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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: 12-17-80

Reportable Occurrence No: 80-062

Event Description

During normal surveillance testing it appeared that the Suppression Chamber Water Level Transmitters - LT 4363B and LT 2325 - were out of calibration. Recalibration of referenced transmitters indicated the suppression chamber water volume was above the Technical Specification maximum volume by approximately 1200 cubic feet. The referenced limit as defined in Technical Specification 3.7.A.1 is 61,500 cubic feet. Operations personnel immediately took action to return the indicated suppression chamber volume to its normal value. Maintenance personnel then recalibrated the level transmitters once again and determined that improper calibration methods used in the initial calibration were responsible for the indicated high level reading. Following recalibration of the transmitters it was necessary to raise the level of the suppression chamber to bring the volume within accepted limits. This was due to the earlier draining of the suppression chamber which lowered the volume from the normal level to a level approximately 1000 cubic feet below the Technical Specification minimum of 58,900 cubic feet. The level was returned to normal within ten minutes of initiating water addition. Approximately 2.5 hours transpired between initiation of pump down and completion of water addition to suppression chamber. No previous similar occurrences.

Cause Description

Personnel error. The instrument technicians performing the test did not properly vent the line on the low side of each transmitter to equalize the pressure across the transmitter prior to the initial calibration. This resulted in a pressure bias to the transmitter which, when recalibrated, indicated a higher than actual level. This resulted in the draining of the suppression chamber by operations personnel due to the erroneous indication.

Corrective Action

Suppression chamber was returned to its original level following the discovery of the improper calibration. The responsible personnel had calibrated the same transmitters several times previously with no problems. Therefore this occurrence is considered an isolated case. The technician involved has been reinstructed on the necessity to be thorough and precise in following established calibration methods and procedures. The responsible technician has been verbally examined by the Assistant Chief Engineer - Technical Support regarding proper calibration procedures and methods. The examination reaffirmed the qualifications of this technician and further indicates that this was an isolated event. The appropriate procedure will be revised to clarify the proper method for venting the piping adjacent to the affected transmitters. No further corrective action is deemed necessary at this time.