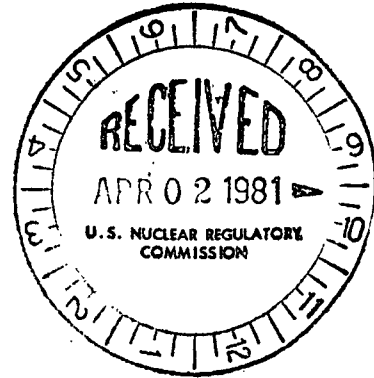


Iowa Electric Light and Power Company

March 24, 1981
LDR-81-108

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 79-26
File: NRC-2, Bulletin 79-26

Dear Mr. Keppler:

Please find attached our revised response to Item 2 of IE Bulletin 79-26. This response has been amended due to operating data gathered during Cycle 5.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry D. Root".

Larry D. Root
Assistant Vice President
Nuclear Generation

LDR/MSR/pl

Attachment

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

M. Rager
D. Arnold
S. Tuthill
L. Liu
L. Root
R. McGaughy
D. Mineck
K. Meyer
D. Wilson

J. Vinquist
G. Van Middlesworth
J. Van Sickle
D. Teply

MAR 27 1981

Duane Arnold Energy Center

Revised Response to NRC IE Bulletin No. 79-26

Item No. 2

Identify any control blades predicted to have greater than 34 percent B¹⁰ depletion averaged over the upper one-fourth of the blade by the next refueling outage.

- a. Describe your plans for replacement of identified control blades.
- b. Describe measure which you plan to take justifying continued operations until the next refueling specifically addressing (1) any blade with greater than 42 percent depletion averaged over the upper one-fourth of the blade; and (2) the condition where you find greater than 26 percent of the control blades calculated to have greater than 34 percent depletion averaged over the upper one-fourth of the blade.

Response

Our previous response predicted that six control blades would reach 34 percent B¹⁰ depletion during Cycle 6. As a result of this prediction, we stated that we would replace these control blades at the end of Cycle 5. However, at the time these depletion calculations were performed, DAEC was operating with a much higher control rod inventory in the core than has been the case in Cycle 5. Due to the low control rod inventory in the core during Cycle 5, these control blades have not been subjected to the exposure predicted during the calculations and therefore the B¹⁰ depletion is substantially lower. Recent calculations reveal that these control blades will not reach 34 percent B¹⁰ depletion prior to the end of Cycle 6. Therefore, our current plans are to replace the six control blades during the 1982 refueling outage.