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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

April 19, 1977

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-77-50A

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of an event 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 on this date.

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

Subject: "MAIN STEAM" PRESSURE RELIEF VALVES

The licensee reported the failure of six main steam relief valves manufactured by Dresser Industries on March 29 and 30, 1977. Four valves did not open and two valves opened, but at an elevated pressure. This information was reported in PNO-77-50.

Region III (Glen Ellyn) was informed by the licensee that testing of re-assembled valves did not completely resolve the question of the failure mode. Accordingly, the licensee has initiated action to replace the Dresser valves with valves manufactured by Target Rock. It is estimated that this modification will delay startup for two weeks. Region III will continue to follow the licensee's evaluation of the failure of the Dresser valves to determine if there are any generic considerations.

Media interest is not expected.

Region III (Glen Ellyn) received notification of this information by telephone from the onsite inspector at 11:00 a.m. on April 19, 1977.

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