

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

May 12, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-80-21

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events 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: Arkansas Power and Light Company
Arkansas Nuclear One - Unit 1
(50-313)

SUBJECT: REACTOR COOLANT PUMP SEAL FAILURE

At 1:45 a.m. CST on May 10, 1980, the seal of the "C" Reactor Coolant Pump (RCP) failed resulting in excessive leakage to the Reactor Building sump. The Unit load was rapidly reduced from 86% of full power and the turbine was taken off the line at 2:47 a.m. CST. At 2:48 a.m. CST the "C" RCP was secured and the leak rate increased significantly. The reactor was tripped at 2:50 a.m. CST from 10% of full power and the standby High Pressure Injection pumps were manually started at 2:51 a.m. CST. The RCS was then cooled down and depressurized. The decay heat removal system was placed in operation at 9:00 a.m. CST. There was no offsite release of radioactive material, but the Reactor Building sump contains about 50,000 to 60,000 gallons of water. The initial measurements indicates that the Reactor Building atmosphere contains about 3,000 curies, primarily Xenon-133. Offsite environmental samples detected no activity levels above background. At 8:00 a.m. CST on May 12, 1980, the RCS is depressurized with temperature at about 122°F, and the seal leakage is .1 gpm.

The licensee plans to process the sump water starting today and to commence a Reactor Building purge later this week. After the Reactor Building purge, the licensee will disassemble and inspect/repair the four RCP seals. Reactor startup is scheduled for June 2, 1980.

The resident inspector is on site. A Region IV HP was dispatched on May 10, 1980 and is on site.

The licensee has made a press release. Region IV (Texas) does not plan to make a press release. The HQ Duty Officer was notified of the initial step change in the RCP seal leakage at 2:28 a.m. CST and again at 4:14 a.m. CST of the significant increase by plant operations personnel on May 10, 1980. The Region IV Duty Officer was notified at 3:40 a.m. CST by the HQ Duty Officer on May 10, 1980.

The Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 1, is a B&W pressurized water reactor.

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