

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

September 5, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-80-31

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 2
(DN 30-368)

SUBJECT: PROCEDURAL ERROR IN CONTAINMENT BUILDING PURGE

The licensee scheduled a containment building purge for the afternoon of 9/4/80. The first segment of the purge was scheduled for ten minutes and forty-four seconds. The isolation valves were lined up, the supply fan started and then the exhaust fan failed to start. Investigation indicated that the exhaust fan pressure switch had tripped. An operator was dispatched to reset the exhaust fan pressure switch, which is located outside the control room. The licensed operator who was in charge of the scheduled purge became involved in other work, while waiting for the pressure switch to be reset.

When the exhaust fan pressure switch was reset, the purge started because the entire system was lined up and became functional when the exhaust fan started. The time that the purge started is unknown. The Senior Resident Inspector observed that the purge was in progress and questioned the licensee personnel. As a result of the SRI's question, the purge was secured. The maximum time of the purge is fifteen minutes.

The licensee took containment building samples and performed analyses to determine the amount of radioactivity purged from the containment building. By analysis, the purge removed forty-nine curies (mostly Xe-133) from the containment building. The SRI calculated that the maximum (worst case) release as a result of this purge was 0.67 of MPC over a one hour period. The licensee performed a calculation using a computer and determined that the release was 0.44 of MPC over a one hour period.

Unit 2 has been shutdown since 9/3/80 when the service water flow to the containment cooling coils failed to meet minimum flow rate required by the Technical Specifications.

Region IV (Arlington, Texas) was notified by the Senior Resident Inspector on 9/4/80 and additional information was obtained on 9/5/80.

The licensee is considering issuance of a press release. Region IV does not plan to issue a press release.

Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2, is a Combustion Engineering pressurized water reactor.

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