

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

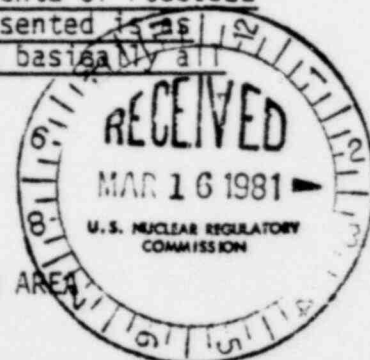
March 11, 1981

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-81-07

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically that is known by IE staff on this date.

FACILITY: Arkansas Power & Light Company  
Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 1  
(DN 50-313)

SUBJECT: BREAKDOWN OF ACCESS CONTROLS FOR A HIGH RADIATION AREA



On March 10, 1981, at about 1430 hours (CST), three contract maintenance workers were found to be working in a high radiation area without HP technician supervision and without adequate knowledge of the existing radiation hazards. The high radiation area was the waste gas decay tank enclosure on the 335' level of the Unit 1 Auxiliary Building and was posted as having 400 mR/hr accessible whole-body radiation. The contract maintenance workers were working on pipe hanger modifications in an area that provided 10-150 mR/hr of accessible whole-body radiation.

The licensee's administrative controls for controlling access to high radiation areas includes control of high radiation area door keys by Health Physics. However, the key to the waste gas decay tank enclosure was not controlled by Health Physics but was issued by the plant guard force to an AP&L I&C technician. The technician unlocked the door and allowed the contract maintenance workers to enter the high radiation area.

The HP technician responsible for coordinating the HP coverage of maintenance activities in the Unit 1 Auxiliary Building was unaware that the waste gas decay tank enclosure was a high radiation area, although the most recent survey performed on March 3, 1981 indicated that there was a 400 mR/hr accessible whole-body radiation dose rate.

The three contract maintenance workers were immediately removed from the high radiation area. The highest radiation dose received was 40 mR as measured by dosimeter on one of the maintenance workers. This dose does not exceed the NRC regulatory limits.

Neither the licensee nor Region IV is considering issuance of a news release at this time. Region IV was notified of this item by the Resident Inspector at 0830 hours (CST) on March 11, 1981. Headquarters was notified by the Chief, Technical Inspection Branch.

Unit No. 1 is a B&W Pressurized Water Reactor and has been shut down since January 2, 1981 for a scheduled refueling outage.

This Preliminary Notice (PN) is submitted for information only.

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