TO DAC:ADM:

CENTRAL FILES
PDR:HQ
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TIC
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STATE

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 1000
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76012

September 26, 1980

Docket No. 50-313
50-368

Arkansas Power and Light Company
ATTN: Mr. William Cavanaugh III
Vice President of Generation
and Construction
P. O. Box 551
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

Gentlemen:

This IE Information Notice is provided as an early notification of a possibly significant matter. It is expected that recipients will review the information for possible applicability to their facilities. No specific action or response is requested at this time. If further NRC evaluations so indicate, an IE Circular or Bulletin will be issued to recommend or request specific licensee actions. If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact the Director of the appropriate NRC Regional Office.

Sincerely,

Karl V. Seyfrit
Director

Enclosures:
1. IE Information Notice No. 80-34
2. Recently Issued IE Information Notices

cc: James P. O'Hanlon, Plant Manager
Arkansas Nuclear One
P. O. Box 608
Russellville, Arkansas 72801

SSINS No.: 6835
Accession No.:
8008220239
IEIN 80-34

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

IE Information Notice No.80-12
IE Information Notice No.: 80-34
September 26, 1980

BORON DILUTION OF REACTOR COOLANT DURING STEAM GENERATOR DECONTAMINATION

Description of Circumstances:

Recently two instances of boron dilution of the reactor coolant system have occurred. Both cases were a result of high pressure washing of the steam generator tube sheets for decontamination to reduce the radiation levels during eddy current testing and related steam generator work.

On May 29, 1980, Trojan Nuclear Plant miscalculated the excess boric acid required to offset the demineralized water used in washing the tube sheets. This resulted in the boron concentration of the primary coolant being reduced to less than the minimum required by the Technical Specifications. The dilution was, however, expected since the wash water was allowed to enter the reactor vessel through the nozzles.

On July 5, 1980, San Onofre Unit 1 inadvertently diluted the reactor coolant boron concentration when the high pressure demineralized flushing water leaked by a dislodged nozzle seal. The inflatable seals had been installed to prevent the non-borated water from entering the reactor. The resulting boron concentration was greater than required for shutdown margin, but the positive reactivity added was in excess of that allowed by the Technical Specifications.

This Information Notice is provided to identify potential problem areas involved with decontaminating specific areas of steam generators. It is expected that recipients will review the potential hazards involved and consider increased monitoring of 1) inflatable seal performance, 2) vessel level, and 3) boron concentration. Increasing the boron concentration of the primary system prior to performing any decontamination activities or using borated water for washing should also be considered.

It is expected that recipients will review this information for possible applicability to their facilities. No specific action or response is requested at this time. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the Director of the appropriate Regional Office.

IE Information No. 80-34
September 26, 1980

LISTING OF RECENTLY ISSUED
IE INFORMATION NOTICES

Information Notice No.	Subject	Date Issued	Issued To
80-28	Prompt Reporting Of Required Information to NRC	6/13/80	All applicants for and holders of nuclear power reactor construction permits
Supp. to 80-06	Notification of Significant Events at Operating Power Reactor Facilities	7/29/80	All holders of Reactor Operating Licenses (OLs) and to near term operating license applicants
80-29	Broken Studs on Terry Turbine Steam Inlet Flange	8/7/80	All light water reactor facilities holding power reactor Operating License (OL) or Construction Permit (CP)
80-30	Potential for Unacceptable Interaction Between the Control Rod Drive Scram Function and Non-Essential Control Air at Certain GE BWR Facilities	8/19/80	All boiling water reactor facilities holding power reactor Operating Licenses (OLs) or Construction Permits (CPs)
80-31	Maloperation of Gould-Brown Boveri Type 480 volt type K-600S and and K-DON 600S circuit breakers	8/27/80	All light water reactor facilities holding Operating Licenses or Construction Permits (CPs)
80-32	Clarification of certain requirements for Exclusive-use shipments of radioactive materials	8/12/80	All NRC and agreement state licensees
80-33	Determination of Teletherapy Timer Accuracy	9/15/80	All teletherapy (G3) licensees

Enclosure