

August 21, 1981

Preliminary Notif.

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-81-21

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
(DN 50-313)

SUBJECT: ELECTRICAL FAULT IN MAIN GENERATOR EXCITATION CIRCUIT AND IDENTIFIED PROBLEM WITH UPPER STAGE OF A REACTOR COOLANT PUMP SEAL

At 7:18 a.m., CDT, on August 21, 1981, Unit 1 tripped from 96% power caused by a turbine trip. The main generator output breaker opened due to an electrical fault in the generator excitation circuit that lead to a loss of main generator output. The resulting voltage transient on the on-site electrical distribution system caused a 4160 volt ESF bus to shed its loads. An emergency diesel engine automatically started. However, the diesel generator was found to be inoperable due to an apparent electrical problem in the voltage control system. This problem is currently being investigated by licensee personnel. In addition, a Reactor Coolant System (RCS) pressure transient occurred as a result of the reactor trip. This pressure transient appears to be the cause of one of the Reactor Coolant Pumps (RCP) upper stage seal failure.

The licensee is cooling down the RCS to replace the failed RCP seal and a second RCP seal that exhibited failure symptoms prior to this reactor trip.

The licensee plans to make a press release. Region IV (Dallas) does not plan to make a press release. The licensee has notified the State of Arkansas.

The licensee estimates that Unit 1, a B&W PWR, will be shut down approximately six days for RCP seal replacement. The licensee will complete investigation of the reactor trip, the electrical fault in the main generator excitation circuit, and the emergency diesel generator problem.

Region IV was notified by the Resident Inspector at 7:45 a.m., on August 21, 1981; however, appropriate information was not available due to the complexity of the sequence of events until 2:00 p.m., August 21, 1981.

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8/21/81 - FAXED TO HQ FOR BROADCAST.



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PDR I&E
PNO-IV-81-021 PDR

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DATE	8/21/81	8/21/81	8/21/81	8/21/81	8/21/81

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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

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