

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

Facility: Duane Arnold Energy Center
RR #1
Palo, IA 52324

Licensee Emergency Classification: *EA*
___ Unusual Event
___ Alert
___ Site Area Emergency
___ General Emergency
XX Not Applicable

Docket No: 50-331

Subject: EXTENDED SHUTDOWN AND REVIEW OF SCRAM HISTORY SINCE SEPTEMBER 7

At the licensee's request, an INPO Scram Assistance Team arrived on site September 19, 1990, to review the circumstances surrounding the three reactor scrams that have occurred since September 7, 1990.

The first scram occurred September 10, three days after the licensee concluded its most current refueling outage. A moisture separator reheater level switch was valved out during the outage and not reopened prior to plant restart. This situation led to the reactor scram with the unit at about 25 percent power.

On September 13, with the unit at 37 percent power, the unit was manually scrammed after the licensee determined that the instrument air controlling a feedwater control valve had been lost because of a solder joint failure.

On September 18, while at 52 percent power, the unit tripped when three Main Steam Isolation Valves unexpectedly closed during main steamline radiation monitor testing. The cause of the closures was traced to a loose connection in a Control Room panel. The unit has been down more than 72 hours since the last shutdown.

The INPO team has been chartered to review the scrams and other potential vulnerabilities that may exist. The licensee does not plan to restart the unit until after its exit meeting with INPO, currently planned for September 21. Region III (Chicago) is monitoring the licensee's course of action and its step-by-step troubleshooting activities.

The State of Iowa will be notified. The information in this Preliminary Notification has been reviewed with licensee management. This information is current as of 10:30 am (CDT), September 21, 1990.

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*Denotes a Displaywriter/PC not an IBM 5520 Terminal.

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