

March 24, 1992

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-92-18A

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 IV staff on this date.

FACILITY: Entergy Operations, Inc.
Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2
Docket: 50-368

Licensee Emergency Classification:
 Notification of Unusual Event
 Alert
 Site Area Emergency
 General Emergency
 Not Applicable

SUBJECT: UNPLANNED OUTAGE GREATER THAN 48 HOURS (UPDATE)

On March 9, 1992, at 7:30 p.m., Unit 2 shut down to locate and repair a steam generator (SG) tube leak in the A SG. The leaking tube was identified using a helium leak test. The licensee established an initial scope of 50 percent of the tubes in each SG to be examined with a rotating pancake probe within 2 inches of the tubesheets on the hot leg side.

As of March 23, the licensee had analyzed 3113 tubes on the A SG, identifying indications in 191, or approximately 6 percent, of those inspected. Many of these indications were considered to be significant. Indications were identified in 50 of the 2504 tubes inspected in the B SG. These indications were described as less significant than those in the A SG. The sample scope has been expanded to 100 percent of the tubes in each SG in the tubesheet area on the hot leg side and 20 percent in the sludge pile area on the cold leg side of the A SG.

The licensee plans to request a Technical Specification change to permit the use of sleeves to repair identified defects.

The licensee plans to perform ultrasonic inspection of certain indications to help characterize the defects. Full length bobbin probe examination will be performed prior to plugging or sleeving tubes.

SG tube performance has been good prior to these findings. The A SG had only approximately 18 tubes plugged and all of these were preservice. In the B SG, 109 tubes have been plugged with approximately 73 plugged during the last refueling outage in April through May 1991. The licensee is evaluating the indications and SG history to attempt to determine the cause of the tube degradation. Plant startup is currently planned for April 30, 1992.

The licensee issued a press release on the outage on March 11, 1992.

The state of Arkansas will be informed.

Region IV and NRR received an update on the SG inspection status and plans in a conference call with the licensee on March 23, 1992.

This information has been confirmed with a licensee representative.

CONTACT: W. D. Johnson FTS 728-8148

WJ

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(5520: 3/24/92 @ 8:15 a.m.
Regions & HQ)

(PHONE VERIF: 3/24/92 @ 8:15
NRR 964-1168 or 964-1166)