

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

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September 8, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-80-32

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: UNCONTROLLED RELEASE OF RADIOACTIVE GASES THROUGH PLANT STACK

On September 5, 1980, Unit 1 was in the process of cooling down for repair of a steam generator tube leak when a relief valve in the letdown system lifted at about 7:53 P.M., CDT. The discharge from this relief valve flows to the auxiliary building equipment drain tank, which is vented to the plant stack. The relief valve was open for approximately five minutes (secured at 7:58 P.M., CDT). Approximately 400 gallons of reactor coolant was relieved to the auxiliary building equipment drain tank.

The radioactive gases were vented from the drain tank to the plant stack. The maximum value recorded by the plant stack monitor was about 52,000 counts per minute (cpm). The licensee calculated that under the worst case meteorological conditions the radioactive gaseous release was about 2.2 MPC at the site boundary when averaged over a one hour period. This release rate exceeds the release rate permitted by paragraph 2.4.2 of the Unit 1 Technical Specifications. If the actual meteorological conditions at the time of the uncontrolled release are used, the calculations indicate that about 0.25 MPC was released.

Region IV (Arlington, Texas) was notified by the HQ Duty Officer at about 11:30 P.M., CDT, 9/5/80. The Senior Resident Inspector provided additional information on 9/5/80.

Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 1, is a Babcock and Wilcox (B&W) pressurized water reactor.

The licensee issued a press release on September 6, 1980.

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