

May 9, 1988

880

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-88-38

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: Arkansas Power and Light Company  
Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2  
Russellville, Arkansas  
DN: 50-368

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

SUBJECT: OUTAGE EXTENSION DUE TO UNCOUPLED CEA

The Unit reached initial criticality at about 1:00 p.m. on May 7, 1988, following a refueling outage which commenced on February 12, 1988. During control element assembly (CEA) coupling checks on May 7, 1988, it was discovered that CEA 8 of group 2 was not coupled. This test was conducted by inserting each CEA individually and observing a change in reactivity as plotted from a reactivity computer. No reactivity changes were caused when this CEA was inserted, but normal response was obtained for all other CEAs.

The Unit was shut down at about 1:30 a.m. on May 8, 1988 and subsequently was cooled down. In order to couple this CEA, it will be necessary to remove the reactor vessel head. Preliminary licensee schedules indicate that 11 to 19 days will be required to recouple the CEA and reach critically again. Initial investigation by the licensee indicates that vessel assembly weight coupling checks and independent checks were performed and the CEA should have been coupled. The licensee is continuing the investigation to determining the cause of the uncoupled CEA.

The licensee has not issued a press release, informed the news media or responded to news media inquiries.

Neither the licensee nor the NRC plans to issue a press release.

The state of Arkansas will be informed.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the SRI at 4:10 p.m. on May 8, 1988. Region IV has informed (EDO/NRR/PA).

This information has been confirmed with a licensee representative.

CONTACT: D. Chamberlain (728-8249)

RIV:DRP  
LJCallan:gb  
5/9/88

RA *[Signature]*  
RDMartin  
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FAX: INPO  
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NRC OC  
LICENSEE (Reactor Lic.)

5520: 5/9/88 @ 3:21  
REGIONS & HQ