

September 23, 1988

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-88-62A

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 & Light Company
Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2
Docket No. 50-368

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

SUBJECT: REACTOR COOLANT PUMP SEAL SENSING LINE LEAKAGE

The licensee notified Region IV management at 5:00 p.m. (CDT) on September 22, 1988, that they had identified a 0.1 gpm "A" reactor coolant pump (RCP) seal sensing line leak for ANO, Unit 2. A containment entry was made and the affected sensing line was isolated. The leakage through the sensing line was reduced to 0.04 gpm, indicating leakage by the isolation valve. The performance of the RCP seal is not affected by isolating the pressure sensing line.

The significance of this event is that the leak appears to be occurring at the same location on the same sensing line that failed on August 1, 1988, and resulted in a RCP seal failure and subsequent reactor shutdown. This earlier event was reported by PNO-IV-88-62 and resulted in considerable media interest.

A subsequent containment entry made during the night of September 22, 1988, localized the source of the leakage to a hole in the 3/8-inch tubing to the pressure transmitter. The hole is in the expansion coil portion of the tubing and is believed by the licensee to have been caused by the tubing rubbing against the upstream isolation valve. This failure mechanism is not similar to the earlier pressure sensing line failure but appears to be a result of the licensee's corrective actions which had added the expansion coils. The licensee is continuing its assessment of this problem, with particular emphasis of the potential for similar failures on the pressure sensing lines on the other RCP seals, which have also been modified after the earlier failure.

The resident inspectors are monitoring licensee action.

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 from the licensee about 5:00 p.m. Region IV has informed the EDO office and NRR.

This information has been confirmed with a licensee representative.

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RIV D-DRP
LJCallan;df
9/23/88
RA RDMartin
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