

## PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

E2A

February 15, 1978

## PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-78-32

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of an event 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 Nuclear One - (Docket Number 50-313)  
Arkansas Power & Light Company

Subject: ALLEGATION THROUGH ASSOCIATED PRESS OF A PIPE RUPTURE AND  
SPREAD OF CONTAMINATION

Region IV (Dallas) received a telephone call from the Associated Press, Little Rock, Arkansas about information they had received from an informant, concerning a coolant pipe rupture at the Arkansas Nuclear One facility. The AP said they were informed that coolant had hit a fan and that three individuals were exposed sufficiently to require treatment. During a subsequent telephone conversation with Region IV the AP identified the pipe as an instrument line. It was reported that all five floors of the plant were contaminated.

An investigation was initiated by Region IV on February 13, 1978. It has been determined that a leak was discovered by Arkansas Power and Light on February 3, 1978. The leak was in a Reactor Coolant Pump seal water sensing line. This primary coolant leak was picked up by the containment circulating fans and resulted in iodine-131 contamination of five floors within containment. The leakage was stopped by manual closure of an isolation valve.

As a result of the licensee's initial inspection, closure of the isolation valve and subsequent activities in the containment, several individuals were contaminated externally. Subsequent whole body counting showed some intake of iodine-131. The maximum intake for any individual was about 5% of permissible body burden.

The AP has contacted AP&L about the allegation. The AP reporter advised Region IV on February 15, that he still plans to prepare a news story.

NRC does not plan a press release.

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Region IV received notification of this occurrence by a telephone call from the Associated Press, Little Rock, Arkansas about 3:00 am on February 9, 1978.

Contact: LJCunningham, IE x28188 LBHigginbotham, IE x28098

Distribution: Transmitted H St 4:51  
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