

PRIORITY ATTENTION REQUIRED MORNING REPORT - REGION IV APRIL 5, 2001

Licensee/Facility:

Arizona Public Service Co.
Palo Verde 1
Wintersburg, Arizona
Dockets: 50-528
PWR/CE80

Notification:

MR Number: **4-01-0003**
Date: 04/03/01
By phone from SRI

Subject: ONE CONTROL ELEMENT ASSEMBLY (CEA) DID NOT FULLY INSERT
DURING PLANNED REACTOR TRIP

Reportable Event Number: N/A

Discussion:

On Saturday, March 31, 2001, control element assembly (CEA) #22 did not fully insert when the licensee tripped the reactor, during controlled shutdown for a refueling outage. Specifically, CEA 22, which is part of Shutdown Group B, did not insert the last 12 inches. The reactor was subcritical following the trip, even with CEA 22 not fully inserted.

In addition, the rod bottom lights for 3 other CEAs, each from a different group, did not initially indicate that they were fully inserted. In response, the operators checked the control element assembly calculator (CEAC) reed switch position indicators and found that these CEAs were essentially full in. Soon afterwards, rod bottom lights illuminated for all but CEA 22.

When all CEAs did not fully insert, the licensee followed their procedures and increased boron concentrations to ensure adequate shutdown margin.

Regional Action:

Resident Inspectors will continue to monitor the licensee's followup activities associated with the control element assembly that would not fully insert. An information call between NRR and regional personnel, and the licensee, will be conducted to ensure an adequate understanding of the event.

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