

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 staff on this date. ⁶⁷

Facility: Iowa Electric Light & Power
Duane Arnold Energy Center
Palo, IA 52324
Docket No; 50-331

Licensee Emergency Classification:
XX ☒ Notification of an Unusual Event
☐ Alert
☐ Site Area Emergency
☐ General Emergency
☐ Not Applicable

Subject: POTENTIAL LOSS OF DIESEL GENERATORS

At 1:50 p.m., (CDT), August 22, 1985, while operating at 90% power, the licensee declared an "Unusual Event" after determining that both diesel generators were technically inoperable because under certain accident conditions power for the four Residual Heat Removal Pumps and the two Core Spray Pumps would transfer from the standby transformer to the diesel generators simultaneously rather than in sequence, possibly overloading the generators and tripping them out.

This problem would occur only when the following conditions are present: The essential buses are receiving power from the standby transformer; the standby transformer fails; the startup transformer continues to supply power; and there is a loss-of-coolant-accident signal.

The licensee entered a 24-hour Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO) at 1:30 p.m. (CDT), August 22, when the engineers determined the problem existed. The unusual event and LCO were cancelled at 10:45 p.m., August 22 after corrective action was taken by placing four test switches in the test position. These test switches force proper sequencing regardless if the RHR pumps and the core spray pumps are loaded on a transformer or diesel generators. (The switches normally are used during testing of the sequence timing with the start-up transformer energized.)

The licensee has placed administrative controls on the switches. This includes placing warning tags on the switches, and checking the switches daily for proper positioning.

The Senior Resident Inspector has been monitoring the event and verified the licensee's corrective action. The Offices of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and Inspection and Enforcement have been notified.

The State of Iowa will be notified.

Region III (Chicago) was notified of this event at 1:55 p.m., (CDT), August 22. This information is current as of 10:00 a.m. (CDT), August 23, 1985.

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