

January 31, 2003

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-03-007

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

Arizona Public Service Co.
Palo Verde 1,2,3
5951 Wintersburg Rd
Tonopah, Arizona
Dockets: 50-528, 50-529,50-530
PWR/CE80

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event
 Alert
 Site Area Emergency
 General Emergency
 Not Applicable

SUBJECT: ULTRALIGHT AIRCRAFT FLYING OVER PLANT SITE

DESCRIPTION:

On January 30, 2003, Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS) notified the NRC of a suspicious or unusual activity. An ultralight aircraft was flying over the plant. The licensee contacted FAA, the FBI and the Maricopa County Sheriff's office, which is the local law enforcement agency (LLEA). The LLEA dispatched a helicopter and escorted the ultralight aircraft to the nearby Buckeye Airport.

The individual was questioned by the FBI and was found to be a professional photographer. He had notified Luke Airforce Base that he would be flying in the area. However, he had not contacted personnel at PVNGS. The individual was not detained.

Region IV, NSIR, NRR, the OEDO received notification of this occurrence from NRC's Operations Center on January 30, 2003. Region IV notified the Region's PAO and SLO. The SLO informed Arizona Governor's Representative. The OEDO briefed the Commissioner's Tech Assistants.

There was local press interest. This PN was discussed with the licensee and coordinated with the IAT prior to issuance.

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