

February 4, 2004

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-04-005

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, Arlington, Texas, staff on this date.

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

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION REQUIRED SHUTDOWN TO EXCEED 72 HOURS

DESCRIPTION:

On February 3, 2004, Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS) notified the NRC that Unit 1 was being shut down because of a leak in the reactor coolant system (RCS) pressure boundary. The licensee's Technical Specifications prohibit power operation of the plant with RCS pressure boundary leakage.

The RCS leakage was discovered on a high pressure safety injection drain valve which is connected to the RCS Loop 1 Hot leg and is nonisolable. The location of the leak is at the weld on the valve socket weld and is estimated at 10 drops per second.

The licensee is proceeding to cold shutdown to repair the weld. The licensee's rootcause analysis and repair activities are ongoing.

The NRC resident inspectors were present in the control room for the shutdown and will continue to monitor the licensee's investigation and repair efforts.

The State of Arizona will be notified.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence from the resident inspectors and subsequently from the NRC's Operations Center on February 3, 2004.

Region IV notified OEDO, PAO, and SLO.

The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 1:30 p.m. (CST), February 4, 2004.

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML 040350644

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