

February 20, 2004

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-04-007

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, Arlington, Texas, staff on this date.

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

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: PALO VERDE UNPLANNED REACTOR SHUTDOWN TO EXCEED 72 HOURS

DESCRIPTION:

On February 19, 2004, Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS) notified the resident inspectors that Unit 2 was being shut down due to a Steam Generator 1 primary-to-secondary leak increasing from approximately 0.7 gallons per day to 11 gallons per day in a 38-minute timeframe based on effluent data. The primary to secondary leakage was identified by operators at 3:22 p.m. The reactor was shut down at approximately 6:30 p.m. (MST) with no complications. New steam generators were recently installed on Unit 2. Palo Verde Technical Specifications allow for a maximum 150 gallons per day primary-to-secondary leakage.

The unit is in cold shutdown with shutdown cooling Train B in service and two reactor coolant pumps providing forced circulation. To facilitate repairs the unit will need to be in a midloop condition, planned for early next week. The duration of this outage is anticipated to extend beyond 72 hours.

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.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence from resident inspectors on February 19, 2004. Region IV has informed the Region's Public Affairs Officer and State Liaison Officer, the OEDO Region IV coordinator, and the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. The Arizona State office has been notified.

There have been no media inquiries to the licensee. The licensee is planning to issue a press release.

The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 10:05 a.m., February 20, 2004.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only and Region IV is evaluating the need for a special inspection.

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML040510337

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