

June 14, 2004

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-04-012

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.

**Facility**

Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station  
Units 1, 2, and 3  
Arizona Public Service Company  
Phoenix, Arizona 85072  
Dockets: 50-528, 529, and 530  
License Nos. NPF-41, 51, and 74

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

SUBJECT: COMPLETE LOSS OF OFFSITE POWER

DESCRIPTION:

On June 14, 2004, at approximately 7:44 a.m. Mountain Standard Time (MST), all three units at the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station experienced automatic reactor trips coincident with a grid disturbance and loss of offsite power in the Palo Verde Switchyard. Unit 2 declared an ALERT Emergency Plan classification at approximately 7:54 a.m. MST due to a loss of AC power resulting in the availability of only a single power source (one of the two emergency diesel generators for the unit did not operate as required) for greater than 15 minutes such that any additional single failure would result in a station blackout. Subsequently, at 9:51 a.m. MST Unit 2 downgraded the Emergency Plan classification to a NOTIFICATION OF UNUSUAL EVENT when AC power was restored from a single essential bus to both essential buses. Units 1 and 3 declared a NOTIFICATION OF UNUSUAL EVENT at 7:53 a.m. MST due to a loss of offsite power to essential buses for greater than 15 minutes. The NOTIFICATION OF UNUSUAL EVENT for all 3 units was terminated at 12:07 p.m. MST.

The licensee stated that the loss of offsite power was caused by a mechanical failure of a 230 Kv line in the Phoenix area which caused a loss of offsite power to the entire Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station site. The licensee is currently investigating the cause of the failure of the 230 kV lines and subsequent loss of all other offsite power sources.

Region IV received notification of the occurrence by telephone from the resident inspectors at approximately 7:45 a.m. MST on June 14, 2004. Region IV informed the offices of EDO, NRR, and PA. Region IV entered the monitoring phase of normal mode at 8:50 a.m. MST. NRC inspectors responded to all three control rooms and monitored the licensee's response throughout the event.

The state of Arizona has been informed.

The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 2:30 p.m. MST on June 14, 2004.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only and no further action by the staff is anticipated.

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML041670013

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