

September 28, 2004

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-04-026

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

Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Diablo Canyon Power Plant Units 1 and 2
Avila Beach, California 93424
Dockets: 50-275; 50-323
License Nos.: DPR-80; DPR-82

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE

DESCRIPTION:

On September 28, 2004, at 10:16 a.m. PDT, a magnitude 6.0 earthquake occurred approximately 45 miles northeast of Diablo Canyon Power Plant near Parkfield, California. The licensee declared a notification of unusual event (NOUE) at 10:30 a.m. PDT for the ground motion felt by the control room operators and measuring greater than 0.01g acceleration (0.012g was recorded on the Earthquake Force Monitor). Diablo Canyon Power Plant, Units 1 and 2, remained at 100 percent power following the earthquake. The licensee is performing walkdowns of the fire protection systems, both containment buildings, auxiliary buildings, the turbine building, and other areas. While these impact assessments are still in progress, preliminary reports indicate no structural damage has been identified. An assessment of any inputs of the offsite power lines will also be conducted. Emergency evacuation routes remained available throughout the emergency planning zone. Two of the 131 emergency sirens were unavailable immediately following the earthquake, with one emergency siren within the emergency planning zone being unavailable because of planned maintenance and the second siren being unavailable due to a loss of power stemming from the earthquake. The licensee restored power to the second siren at 11:40 a.m. PDT. The licensee decided to remain in the NOUE for a minimum of 24 hours because of the occurrence of aftershocks and notification from the United States Geological Survey of probable aftershocks for the first 24 hours following the initial earthquake.

The resident inspectors responded to the control room at the time of the earthquake, independently monitored the plant response to the earthquake, and are independently assessing plant structures and equipment. Additionally, a specialist inspector is being dispatched to the site, and the NRC staff is monitoring the licensee's response activities from its Incident Response Center in Arlington, Texas. An NRC inspector will continue to remain on site throughout the period the licensee remains in the NOUE.

The state of California has been informed.

The licensee made an announcement on local radio stations indicating no damage occurred at the plant.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the NRC senior resident inspector at the Diablo Canyon Power Plant at 10:20 a.m. PDT, on September 28, 2004.

Region IV has informed EDO/NRR/PA.

This information has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 1:55 p.m. PDT, September 28, 2004.

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML042720618
CONTACTS: William B. Jones (817) 860-8147