

June 24, 2005

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-05-008

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**

Energy Northwest  
Columbia Generating Station  
Richland, Washington  
Docket: 50-397  
License No. NPF-21

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF UNUSUAL EVENT DUE TO DETECTION OF FLAMMABLE GAS IN THE GENERAL SERVICES BUILDING

DESCRIPTION: At 11:27 p.m. (PDT) on June 23, 2005, an unusual event was declared due to the detection of flammable gas in the General Services Building (GSB) in amounts that could affect the health of plant personnel or safe plant operation. The GSB is a maintenance building located adjacent to the power block inside the protected area. The Hanford Fire Department HAZMAT team was called and responded to the scene. The highest level of flammability measured was 50 percent of the Lower Explosive Limit (LEL).

A thorough survey of the building was conducted by the HAZMAT team and it was determined that the building was free of any toxic gas. The probable source of the gas was from the settling ponds associate with the WNP units 1 and 4 sites located outside the protected area east of the GSB. The gas was carried by a stable breeze to the buildings air intake. Dissipation of gas concentration was accomplished using normal building ventilation.

The Notice of Unusual Event was terminated at 2:07 a.m. (PDT) on June 24, 2005.

In a separate event, at 1:48 p.m. (PDT) on June 23, 2005, Columbia Generating Station tripped from approximately 25 percent power while attempting to place feedwater heaters in service. This trip was not related to the Notice of Unusual Event.

The state of Washington has been informed.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by the Resident Inspector at 2:15 a.m. (CDT) on June 24, 2005.

This information has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 10:00 a.m. on June 24, 2005.

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