July 7, 2006

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-06-003A

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
Arizona Public Service Company
Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station Unit 1
Tonopah, Arizona
Docket No: 50-528
License No. NPF-41

Licensee Emergency Classification
___ Notification of Unusual Event
___ Alert
___ Site Area Emergency
___ General Emergency
_X_ Not Applicable

SUBJECT: UPDATE - PALO VERDE UNIT 1 EXTENDED SHUTDOWN TO REPAIR SHUTDOWN COOLING VALVE VIBRATION

DESCRIPTION: This preliminary notification updates information previously provided regarding the shut down of Unit 1 on March 18, 2006. Unit 1 was shut down to perform additional testing to confirm the source of the shutdown cooling line vibration. Prior to this outage, power was limited to approximately 25 percent because of this vibration. On March 25, 2006, the licensee announced that Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station Unit 1 would remain shut down for an extended period to correct high vibration on a shutdown cooling suction valve.

During this outage, the licensee performed numerous activities including an inspection of the core barrel and relocation of a shutdown cooling suction valve to address the high vibration condition. The licensee determined that the high vibration levels would be significantly reduced by moving the valve closer to the reactor coolant system hot leg piping. The NRC conducted inspections and in-plant observations of these activities and reviewed the design modification associated with the relocation of the valve.

The licensee completed their pre-startup vibration testing associated with the valve. The highest recorded vibration level was significantly below the acceptance limit. The NRC conducted continuous control room coverage of the vibration testing during the heat up of the plant in preparation for restart. The licensee will continue to monitor vibration levels during power ascension; however, no significant changes in vibration levels are expected with the increase in power.

On July 7, 2006 at 3:06 a.m. (CDT), Unit 1 was restarted (Mode 2). The main generator electrical output breakers are scheduled to be closed later today for the plant to begin supplying power to the electrical grid.

The state of Arizona has been notified.

The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 2:00 p.m. (CDT) on July 7, 2006.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only.

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML061880481

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