

December 12, 2006

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-06-016

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 & Electric Co.
Diablo Canyon Unit 2
Avila Beach, CA 93424

Dockets: 50-275
Licenses: DPR-82

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: UNUSUAL EVENT AT DIABLO CANYON POWER PLANT

DESCRIPTION: At 1:40 p.m. PST, on December 12, 2006, Pacific Gas & Electric declared an Unusual Event at Diablo Canyon Unit 2 due to an electrical fault with a non-safety related circulating water pump. The fault of the pump motor resulted in a loud noise and smoke. The fault occurred while operators were transferring electrical power sources to a circulating water pump motor during a reactor startup. Operators in the vicinity reported a loud bang and smoke from the pumphouse, prompting the event declaration. The licensee's fire brigade responded to the pumphouse and reported that the fire had been extinguished. The Unusual Event was terminated at 2:30 p.m. PST. The licensee is investigating the cause of the electrical fault and extent of damage.

The electrical transient from the circulating water pump motor fault resulted in the loss of electrical power to two reactor coolant pumps which resulted in an automatic reactor trip. The Unit 2 reactor was shutdown without complications. All safety systems operated as designed. Prior to the event, the reactor was at approximately 25 percent power with reactor startup in progress. Unit 1 was operating at 100 percent power and was not affected by the event.

The NRC resident inspectors were on site when the event occurred and are continuing to follow the licensee's response.

The state of California has been informed.

The licensee has issued a press release. Region IV received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the Senior Resident Inspector at 1:47 p.m. PST on December 12, 2006. Region IV has informed OEDO, NRR, and NSIR. This information has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 4:20 p.m. PST.

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

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML063460575

CONTACTS: Geoffrey Miller	Victor Dricks
817-860-8141	817-860-8128
gbm@nrc.gov	vld@nrc.gov