

November 2, 2011

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE - PNO-IV-11-008

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, Arlington Texas, staff on this date.

**Facility**

Southern California Edison  
SONGS 3  
San Clemente, CA  
Docket: 50-362

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

Subject: AMMONIA LEAK CAUSES EVACUATION OF UNIT 3 TURBINE  
BUILDING AND ALERT DECLARATION

DESCRIPTION:

San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 3 declared an Alert at 2:50 p.m. PDT on November 1, 2011, because of an ammonia leak on site that resulted in a precautionary evacuation of the Unit 3 turbine building. The ammonia was leaking from an overflow vent valve of an ammonia day tank that is used to control secondary plant water chemistry. The overflow was caused by the failure of an isolation valve that allowed excessive ammonia to enter the ammonia day tank. The licensee was able to stop the leak at 5:24 p.m. PDT. The Alert was subsequently terminated at 6:07 p.m. PDT.

The licensee staffed their emergency response facilities and made immediate notifications to the state and local authorities. Both Units 2 and 3 remained at full power and the ammonia leak had no effect on plant operations or equipment. There were no personnel injuries. All 30 gallons of leaking ammonia were contained in a berm around the day tank.

The licensee notified the NRC headquarters operations officer at 3:08 p.m. PDT. The NRC resident inspectors and visiting NRC Region IV inspectors promptly responded to the Main Control Room, the Technical Support Center, and the scene of the leak. The NRC will continue to follow up on the licensee's overall response, including the Alert declaration, off-site notifications, the onsite protective actions, the actions to stop the leak and clean up the ammonia, and the corrective actions associated with the cause of the leak.

The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee, and is current as of 10:00 a.m. PDT, November 2, 2011.

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Contact: Ryan Lantz  
(817) 313-4398  
[Ryan.Lantz@nrc.gov](mailto:Ryan.Lantz@nrc.gov)