

March 16, 2012

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE - PNO-IV-12-003A

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

Southern California Edison Company
San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station
San Clemente, CA 92674
Docket: 50-361; 50-362
License No: NPF-10; NPF-15

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: UPDATE - AUGMENTED INSPECTION TEAM ONSITE AT SAN ONOFRE UNIT 3

DESCRIPTION:

This preliminary notification supplements information in PNO-IV-12-003, which documented a steam generator tube leak and rapid plant shut down of San Onofre Unit 3 on January 31, 2012.

On March 15, 2012, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission commenced an onsite Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) assessment of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station's Unit 3 steam generator tube degradation.

AITs are used by the NRC to review more significant events or issues at NRC-licensed facilities. The inspection team includes inspectors from the NRC's RIV office, Region II office, NRC Headquarters in Rockville, MD., and the resident inspector at San Onofre.

On January 31, 2012, San Onofre Unit 3 shut down due to indications of a steam generator tube leak. Steam generator tube inspections confirmed one small leak on one tube in one of the two steam generators. Continuing inspections of 100% of the steam generator tubes in both Unit 3 steam generators discovered unexpected wear, including tube to tube as well as tube to tube support structural wear.

On March 14, 2012, Southern California Edison notified the NRC that three steam generator tubes on Unit 3 had failed the in situ pressure test that was being conducted as part of their steam generator tube integrity program in response to their on-going investigation of the January 31, 2012 tube leak. The licensee began the in situ pressure testing on March 13, 2012. One hundred and twenty-nine tubes are planned to be tested. The licensee is continuing with testing of the remaining tubes and will report additional failures if and when they occur. The licensee expects to complete all in situ pressure testing during the week of March 26, 2012.

The State of California has been informed. This information has been discussed with licensee management and is current as of 08:15 AM, CDT.

This preliminary notification will be updated as more information becomes available.

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML12075A219

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