

September 13, 2001

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-01-041

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 99352
Docket: 50-397
License: NPF-21

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: CONTROL ROOM LICENSED OPERATOR REMOVED FROM OPERATIONAL DUTIES

DESCRIPTION:

On September 12, 2001, at 7:20 a.m. (PDT), the licensee initiated for-cause fitness-for-duty testing of the main control room on-shift Shift Manager. The individual was escorted to the licensee's testing station to be tested for alcohol consumption. By 8:17 a.m., the licensee confirmed that the primary and secondary breathalyser test results were positive for alcohol in excess of the licensee's 0.04 blood alcohol limit. The Shift Manager elected to take a blood test as well, the results of which are not yet known. At 8:26 a.m. the Shift Manager's site access was blocked and he was driven home shortly thereafter by site personnel.

The individual had assumed the control room shift manager duties at 6 a.m. (PDT). The Shift Supervisor had not performed any safety-related activities other than relieving the off-going Shift Manager.

The state of Washington will be informed.

The Resident Inspector received initial notification of this occurrence at 9 a.m. (PDT) on September 12, 2001. The licensee made a 24-hour 10 CFR Part 26 notification to the NRC at 4:57 p.m. (PDT) on September 12, 2001. Region IV has informed the OEDO, NRR, and the OPA.

This information has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of September 13, 2001, at 8:30 a.m.

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