October 20, 2003

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-03-044

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	**Licensee Emergency Classification**
Pacific Gas and Electric Company	_X_ Notification of Unusual Event
Diablo Canyon Power Plant Units 1 and 2	___ Alert
Dockets: 50-275; 50-323	___ Site Area Emergency
Licenses: DPR-80; DPR-82	___ General Emergency
	___ Not Applicable

SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE DETECTED AT DIABLO CANYON

DESCRIPTION:

At 12:52 a.m. (PDT) on October 18, 2003, Diablo Canyon Power Plant Units 1 and 2 declared a NOUE because an earthquake, with a magnitude of 3.4, met the moderate vertical acceleration limits (0.02g on range of 0.01 to 0.1g). No damage to plant equipment was observed and both units remained at 100 percent power throughout the event.

The initial tremor, which occurred at 12:27 a.m. (PDT) and lasted approximately 3 seconds, was felt by the control room operators. No alarms or other effects were noted. The second tremor occurred at 12:39 a.m. (PDT) and lasted approximately one second. The epicenter of the seismic event was located 2.8 miles east-southeast of the plant within the owner controlled area. The second tremor resulted in a momentary turbine bearing high vibration alarm, on both units, and a high level alarm on the Unit 1 safety injection accumulator 1-3. The plants' seismic monitor recorded a peak acceleration of 0.02 g. Both Units remained at 100 percent power.

Following declaration of the NOUE, the licensee entered the casualty procedure for earthquakes detected at the site. The shift manager initiated a preliminary evacuation of the intake structure where valve maintenance was in progress until the extent of the seismic event was understood. Licensee personnel performed walkdowns of both containments and vital areas in accordance with its established earthquake response procedures. No immediate structural damage was evident. The licensee performed enhanced monitoring of safety-related tank levels to ensure no ruptures or leaks occurred. No damage to any plant equipment was identified. All offsite power sources remained available. The access road and emergency evacuation routes remained clear.

Following confirmation that the earthquake did not damage the plant, the licensee exited the NOUE at 3:30 a.m. (PDT).

Upon notification of the NOUE, the NRC entered the monitoring phase of normal operations at 2:30 a.m. (PDT), and staffed the Region IV Incident Response Center. The Senior Resident Inspector responded to the site to monitor licensee actions. Following licensee termination of the NOUE, the NRC exited the monitoring phase of normal mode at 4:30 a.m. (PDT).

The state of California has been informed.

The licensee issued a press release on October 18, 2003. There has not been significant media interest in this event. Region IV received notification by telephone from the NRC Senior Resident Inspector. Region IV has informed the EDO, NRR, and PA.

This information has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 9 a.m. on October 20, 2003.

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