

March 18, 2004

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-04-010

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 and Electric Company  
Diablo Canyon Power Plant

Docket: 50-275; 50-323  
License: DPR-80; DPR-82

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

**SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE NEAR DIABLO CANYON POWER PLANT**

**DESCRIPTION:**

On March 17, 2004, at 3:53 p.m. PST, a magnitude 4.5 earthquake occurred approximately 38 miles north-northwest of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant near San Simeon, California, and near the location of the December 22, 2003, 6.5 magnitude earthquake. The magnitude 4.5 earthquake released approximately 100 times less energy than the December 22 earthquake. Some plant personnel felt slight movement in the administrative building located inside the plant protected area. No motion was felt inside the control room. No ground motion was registered on the earthquake force monitor and no emergency action level was entered. Both units continued to operated at their pre-earthquake power levels.

A resident inspector, who was onsite at the time of the earthquake, responded to the control room, observed operators assess plant conditions, and reviewed the status of the control boards. No plant alarms or annunciators were received as a result of the seismic event. The licensee did not enter their earthquake response procedure because no ground motion was registered on the earthquake force monitor and the earthquake was not felt by the control room operators. The licensee verified that offsite power lines remained stable and operable, power to emergency sirens remained available, no sirens were affected as a result of the earthquake, and emergency evacuation routes remained accessible and passable. The emergency core cooling systems and the emergency diesel generators were unaffected and remained operable.

Since no motion was registered by the earthquake force monitor, licensee management concluded that the earthquake was too small of magnitude to cause any plant damage. The resident inspectors will perform walkdowns on selected safety-related systems to verify no earthquake related damage occurred.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by phone from the Senior Resident Inspector at 6:05 p.m. CST on March 17, 2004. Region IV informed NRR and the OEDO Coordinator on March 17, 2004. The state of California and the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors have been informed by phone by the Regional State Liaison Officer.

There was local press interest. The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 12 noon CST on March 18, 2004.

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

**CONTACTS:**

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ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML040780990