October 5, 2005

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-05-015

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
Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 3
Buckeye, Arizona
Docket: 50-530
License: NPF-74

Licensee Emergency Classification
___ Notification of Unusual Event
___ Alert
___ Site Area Emergency
___ General Emergency
_X_ Not Applicable

SUBJECT: SHUTDOWN TO REPAIR REACTOR COOLANT PUMP OIL SEAL

DESCRIPTION:

This Preliminary Notification is being issued to inform recipients of a shutdown of Palo Verde Nuclear Generation Station (PVNGS) Unit 3, because of a leaking oil seal on the Reactor Coolant Pump (RCP) 1A thrust bearing. On October 1, 2005, the licensee shut down Unit 3 to replace the RCP 1A oil seal. The licensee expects to complete repairs to the RCP 1A oil seal on October 4.

This is the fourth replacement of a RCP oil seal at PVNGS since May 2005. The licensee is currently monitoring a similar RCP oil seal leak on the Unit 2 2A RCP. The licensee is working with their vendors to determine the root causes of the oil seal failures.

The Resident Inspectors are monitoring RCP oil seal repair activities.

Region IV received initial notification of this occurrence from the licensee at 4:00 p.m. (CDT) on September 29, 2005. The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 12:30 p.m. (CDT) on October 4, 2005.

The state of Arizona has been notified by telephone.

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

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML 052770406

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