

March 29, 2006

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-06-004

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

San Onofre, Unit 3
Southern California Edison Co.
San Clemente, CA
Docket No: 50-362
License No: NPF-15

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: SHUTDOWN OF SAN ONOFRE UNIT 3 TO INVESTIGATE SAFETY INJECTION TANK GASKETS

DESCRIPTION: On March 29, 2006, San Onofre Unit 3 entered a Technical Specification 3.0.3 shutdown action statement at 2:01 a.m. (CST) when the licensee declared both trains of emergency core cooling systems inoperable due to potentially degraded gasket material on all four safety injection tank manway covers which could impact safety injection system operation. Plant operators began the Unit 3 shutdown at 2:50 a.m. (CST) with the unit required to be in Mode 3 by 9:01 a.m. (CST).

Unit 3 was at 100 percent power and Unit 2 was in a refueling outage preparing for startup. On March 27, the licensee discovered gasket material used to seal one of the Unit 2 safety injection tank manway covers in one of the safety injection tank outlet check valves. This gasket material prevented the check valve from fully seating. During inspections of the remaining three Unit 2 safety injection tank manway covers, the licensee found the gaskets degraded but intact; therefore, the licensee determined the same condition could exist on the Unit 3 safety injection tanks.

The state of California will be informed.

The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 1100 a.m. (CST) on March 29, 2006.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only and the resident inspector staff will follow the resolution of the degraded safety injection tank gaskets.

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML 060880230

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