

January 11, 2010

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-10-001**

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**

Humboldt Bay Power Plant, Unit 3  
Eureka, California  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Dockets: 050-133; 072-027  
License: DPR-7

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

**SUBJECT:** EARTHQUAKE NEAR HUMBOLDT BAY POWER PLANT

**DESCRIPTION:**

On January 9, 2010, at 4:27 p.m. PST, a magnitude 6.5 earthquake occurred 27 miles south-southwest of Eureka, California. The earthquake was felt by station personnel at Humboldt Bay Power Plant, located near Eureka. Humboldt Bay Power Plant, Unit 3, is a permanently shutdown power reactor facility, which is co-located with two non-nuclear units. The licensee walked down the plant's facilities in accordance with its emergency response procedures. Although not critical for safety, the licensee identified that there was a loss of offsite electric power to the independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI). The backup power supply continued to supply power to the ISFSI, and offsite power was subsequently restored that evening. The licensee reported no damage to the shutdown reactor, which is actively being decommissioned and is permanently defueled.

On January 12, 2010, the NRC will commence an onsite inspection of the impact of the earthquake on the facility and the licensee's response to it.

The state of California has been notified.

The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 12 noon CST on January 11, 2010.

**ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER:** ML100110532

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