

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

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 (Update)

DESCRIPTION:

This is an update of the Preliminary Notification that was issued in response to the January 9, 2010, magnitude 6.5 earthquake which occurred about 26 miles from Eureka, California, near the permanently shutdown Humboldt Bay Power Plant, Unit 3. A team of NRC inspectors performed an onsite review of the earthquake and licensee actions.

The earthquake was strongly felt at the site, but no damage to onsite licensed facilities was observed. There was a loss of electrical power to the independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) because of an offsite power problem; however, backup electrical power was maintained at the ISFSI through its dedicated uninterruptable power supply system until normal electrical power was restored approximately 3.5 hours later. All fuel had been moved to the ISFSI in 2008. The event did not meet the threshold of the licensee's emergency classification criteria and was determined through onsite seismic monitors to be below the seismic design basis criteria.

The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 3 p.m. CST on January 19, 2010.

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML100200019

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