

February 1, 2012

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-12-003

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

Southern California Edison Company
San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station
San Clemente, CA 92674

Docket: 50-361; 50-362

License No: NPF-10; NPF-15

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event

Alert

Site Area Emergency

General Emergency

Not Applicable

SUBJECT: SAN ONOFRE UNIT 3 STEAM GENERATOR TUBE LEAK AND RAPID SHUTDOWN

DESCRIPTION:

On January 31, 2012, at 3:05 p.m. (PST), main control room operators at San Onofre Unit 3 received secondary plant system radiation alarms. The operators responded in accordance with their alarm response procedures and diagnosed a steam generator tube leak from the number 2 steam generator. The operators evaluated the leakage to be about 82 gallons per day. At 4:30 p.m., as directed by plant procedures, the operators conducted a rapid power reduction to 35 percent power, then manually tripped Unit 3 at 5:31 p.m.

All plant systems responded as expected during the shutdown, and the steam generator tube leak rate did not worsen during the plant shutdown. Operators successfully isolated the steam generator at 6:00 p.m. and continued to cool down the plant using the number 1 steam generator.

NRC resident inspectors were on site and responded to the main control room to monitor licensee activities during the event.

The NRC received notification of this occurrence at 4:10 p.m. from the resident inspector staff.

San Onofre Unit 3 was operating at 100 percent power when this event occurred. The plant has been operating for approximately 1 year in the first operating cycle following replacement of the steam generators, which was completed in January 2011.

San Onofre Unit 2 is shutdown and defueled, in its first refueling outage following replacement of the steam generators in January 2010.

The information presented herein has been discussed with licensee management and is current as of February 1, 2012.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only.

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML12032A243

CONTACTS:

Ryan Lantz
(817) 313-4398
ryan.lantz@nrc.gov

Victor Dricks
(817) 917-1227
victor.dricks@nrc.gov