July 16, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-79-251

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of an event of
POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information
presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation
and is basically all that is known by IE staff on this date.

Facility: Arizona Public Service Company
Palo Verde Unit 1
Phoenix, Arizona 85036
Docket No. 50-528

Subject: Allegation Regarding Use of Improper Weld Material
In Reactor Pressure Vessel

The NRC Region V has received an anonymous allegation regarding the use of
non-ASME approved filler metal in the placement of a fusion weld deposit on
the circumference of the inside diameter of the wall of the reactor pressure
vessel bottom head. The alleger questions the basis for the acceptance of
the deviation from the specification requirement and challenges Combustion
Engineering's interpretation of "pressure retaining material" or "primary
boundary" as discussed in IE Bulletin 78-12, 12A and 12B.

The NRC IV Vendor Inspection Branch will investigate the matter starting at the
Combustion Engineering Plant in Windsor Lock, Connecticut the week of July 22,
1979.

A news release by NRC Region V is not planned.

Region V (San Francisco) received the allegation in the mail on July 12, 1979.

Contact: J. Glynn IE x27551; G.Reinmuth IE x27551; H. Thornburg, IE x27551

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