UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION V
1990 N. CALIFORNIA BOULEVARD
SUITE 202, WALNUT CREEK PLAZA
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596

DEIA

DEIA

May 29, 1979

Docket Nos. 50-133
50-275
50-323

Pacific Gas and Electric Company
77 Beale Street
San Francisco, California 94106

Attention: Mr. Philip A. Crane, Jr.
Assistant General Counsel

Gentlemen:

This Information Notice is provided as an early notification of a possibly significant matter. It is expected that recipients will review the information for possible applicability to their facilities. No specific action or response is requested at this time. If further NRC evaluations so indicate, an IE Circular or Bulletin will be issued to recommend or request specific licensee actions. If you have questions regarding the matter, please contact the Director of the appropriate NRC Regional Office.

Sincerely,

R. H. Engelken
Director

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Enclosure:
IE Information Notice
No. 79-13

cc w/enclosures:
W. Barr, PG&E
W. A. Raymond, PG&E
R. Ramsay, PG&E (Diablo Canyon)
J. D. Worthington, PG&E
E. Weeks, PG&E (Humboldt Bay)

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

May 29, 1979

IE Information Notice No. 79-13

INDICATION OF LOW WATER LEVEL IN THE OYSTER CREEK REACTOR

Summary

A loss of feedwater transient at the Oyster Creek facility on May 2, 1979, resulted in a significant reduction in water inventory within the reactor core shroud area as measured by one set of water level instruments (triple low level), while the remaining level instruments, sensing from the reactor annulus area indicated water levels above any protective feature setpoint (Figure 1). The water level within the core shroud area was reduced below the "triple low level" setpoint of 4-feet, 8-inches above the top of the fuel.

Subsequent analysis by the licensee has determined that the minimum collapsed water level (solid, without steam voids) over the top of the fuel was 1 to 1-1/2 feet.

Coolant sample analyses and offgas release rates indicate that no fuel damage occurred.

General

Oyster Creek is a non-jet pump BWR with licensed power of 1930 MWt. The plant was first made critical May 3, 1969.

Status Before Transient

Operating at near full power with the main parameters at levels as follows:

1895 MWt power level
79" Yarway (13'4" over top of fuel) reactor water level
1020 psig reactor pressure
7.1×10^6 #/hr feed flow
14.8×10^4 gpm recirculation flow rate (4 pumps)
12 psid core Δp

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Equipment Out of Service (OOS)

"D" recirc pump OOS due to s
"B" startup transformer OOS

DUPLICATE DOCUMENT

Entire document previously entered into system under:

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