

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

176

March 21, 1978

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-78-56

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: Sacramento Municipal Utility District  
 Rancho Seco, Clay Station, California  
 Docket No. 50-312

RANCHO SECO  
 MARCH 20, 1978

Subject: Primary System Pressure-Temperature

The licensee reported that loss of an instrument power supply caused reactor and turbine trips at 4:25 a.m. on March 20, 1978. Excessive cooldown caused reactor coolant pressure to decrease, activating the safety injection system at 1600 psig. Pressure remained above 1400 psig throughout the event, but the technical specifications for primary system cooldown rate and pressure-temperature operating limits were exceeded. The licensee is still reviewing the event with Babcock & Wilcox (B&W) assisting in analysis of the pressure-temperature transient. All engineered safeguards functioned as required, and no safety limits were exceeded.

Two Region V inspectors were dispatched to the site on March 21 to review the event prior to startup. Earliest expected restart is late March 21, 1978, providing the results of the transient analyses are acceptable.

Media interest is expected. The licensee plans to issue a press release. Region V does not intend to issue a press release.

Region V (San Francisco) received notification of this event by telephone from the Plant Superintendent at 2:30 p.m. on March 20, 1978.

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Distribution: Transmitted H St 3:00

Chairman Hendrie  
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