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

July 29, 1980

Docket No. 50-133

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

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

Gentlemen:

The enclosed Information Notice supplements Information Notice No. 80-06 "Notification of Significant Events," and provides clarification on types of events that are required to be reported in accordance with 10 CFR 50.72, "Notification of Significant Events."

Sincerely,

R. H. Engelken
Director

Enclosures:

1. Supplement to IE Information Notice No. 80-06
2. List of Recently Issued IE Information Notices

cc w/enclosures:

- J. D. Shiffer
- W. Raymond, 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

SSINS No.: 6870
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July 29, 1980

Supplement to IE Information Notice No. 80-06

NOTIFICATION OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AT OPERATING POWER REACTOR FACILITIES

Description of Circumstances:

IE Information Notice No. 80-06 (IN 80-06) issued on February 27, 1980, forwarded a Federal Register Notice which indicated that the NRC regulations were amended by adding a new § 50.72, "Notification of significant events", to 10 CFR Part 50. The effective date of the new rule was February 29, 1980. This Information Notice supplements IN 80-06 and provides clarification on types of events that are required to be reported in accordance with the rule.

Public comments on the rule indicate the need for more detailed clarification on what occurrences are reportable in regard to certain event types listed in the rule. Commenters particularly stressed the need to establish more definitive thresholds for notifications of certain types of events. Experience so far with notifications being made in accordance with § 50.72 also suggest the need for clarification and more definitive guidance. The general categorization of some of the event types listed in the rule has resulted in notifications of events of less significance than was originally intended. As stated in the Federal Register Notice implementing § 50.72, the rule was intended to require immediate notification of "serious events that could result in an impact on the public health and safety."

The notification requirements in § 50.72 are currently being evaluated to determine actions needed in light of public comments on and experience with the rule. Notwithstanding future actions which may include some modifications to the rule and supplementary regulatory guidance, a short term need exists for clarifying the thresholds for notifications of certain categories of events. The following paragraphs provide clarification on what is reportable pursuant to the event categories listed in items (1), (7) and (9) of the rule.

Item (1) of § 50.72(a) requires notification of: "Any event requiring initiation of the licensee's emergency plan or any section of that plan." Notifications under this item refer to those initiating events or conditions that place the facility in a "Notification of Unusual Event" status. An unusual event indicates a potential degradation of the level of safety of the plant. Examples of initiating events or conditions that would be categorized as an unusual event are listed on the enclosed pages 4 and 5 of NUREG-0610, "Draft Emergency Action Level Guidelines for Nuclear Power Plants" (Appendix 1 to NUREG-0654, "Criteria for Preparation and Evaluation of Radiological Emergency Response Plans and Preparedness in Support of Nuclear Power Plants").

It is recognized that some overlap and requirements of item (1) and other items

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