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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-V:8;-39A

Date: July 21, 1981

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events 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: Southern California Edison Company
San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Unit No. 1
San Clemente, California
Docket No. 50-206

Subject: GASEOUS WASTE DECAY TANK FAILURE FROM APPARENT HYDROGEN IGNITION

Subsequent information on this event has revealed that the ventilation exhaust monitors did record a step rise in reading from a background reading of 1,500 counts per second (cps) to 12,000 cps. The reading then decayed off exponentially to background in 30 minutes.

The Final Safety Analysis Report for this facility analyses the environmental consequences of a waste gas tank accident resulting in the discharge of 20,000 curies of noble gases. In that case, a dose less than .01 rem would be received by an individual in an unrestricted area. Thus, the 8.8 curies discharged in this event would give a dose less than .004 mrem to an individual in an unrestricted area.

Additional media interest is not expected. Neither the licensee nor the NRC plans to issue a news release.

Region V (San Francisco) received this notification update of this occurrence from the Resident Inspector at 10:00 a.m. on 7/20/81. This information is current as of 2:00 p.m. on 7/20/81.

CONTACT: A. Chaffee, 463-3746

T. Young, 463-3853

Distribution:
Chairman Palladino
Commissioner Gilinsky

Transmitted H St. 9:00
Commissioner Ahearne
Commissioner Bradford
ACRS

S. J. Chilk, SECY
C. C. Kammerer, CA
(For Distribution)

Transmitted:

MNBB: 8:53 AR: 9:05
W. J. Dircks, EDO G.W. Kerr, SP

P. BLDG: 9:07 IE: TAS 8:55 (IE:HQ Dist.)

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S. H. Hanauer, NRR

MAIL:
*S. Ebbin
IE:TAS
Document Mgt. Br.
(For PDR/LPDR)

Koo 5/10

REGIONAL OFFICES: I, II, III, IV

Willste Bldg: 10:00
J. G. Davis, NMSS
R. B. Minoque, RES

FOR POWER REACTORS ONLY: 9:20
NSAC Comm. No. (415) 856-6621 ✓
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