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

Facility: Portland General Electric Company
Trojan Nuclear Plant
Rainier, Oregon
Docket No. 50-344

Licensee Emergency Classification:
 Notification of Unusual Event
 Alert
 Site Area Emergency
 General Emergency
 Not Applicable

SUBJECT: REACTOR FUEL DEGRADATION

The Region V office received a telecon report at 11:15 a.m. on April 26, 1982, from the licensee that two fuel assemblies which had been removed from the core show signs of serious fuel degradation. Based on high RCS iodine levels during the last cycle, fuel clad damage had been expected. Additionally, based on the experience of the last refueling outage, the damage was suspected to be related to water jet impingement from the core baffle plates. Fuel movement commenced on April 25 and results today indicate that two of 12 assemblies (A-5 and A-11) have obvious damage in the upper two feet of the fuel rods. There were about six damaged rods in the A-5 assembly including probable missing fuel pellets. The location of the damaged assemblies is associated with the "inner" corner of the core baffles. Previous baffle related problems with fuel at all Westinghouse plants to date has occurred adjacent to "outer" baffle locations.

The licensee is working closely with Westinghouse and the Westinghouse Baffle Task Force is gearing up to analyze this situation. Arrangements are being made to obtain Hi-Resolution T.V. tapes of the fuel damage and to continue the examination of other fuel assemblies in the core.

Media interest is not expected. Neither the licensee nor the NRC plans to issue a news release. Region V (San Francisco) received notification of this occurrence from the licensee at 11:15 a.m. on April 26, 1982. This information is current as of 11:30 a.m. on April 26, 1982.

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