

November 15, 1993

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-V-93-019

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 the Region V staff on this date.

Facility

Pacific Gas & Electric Co.
Diablo Canyon 1 2
Avila Beach, California
Dockets: 50-275, 50-323

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event
Alert
Site Area Emergency
General Emergency
X Not Applicable

Subject: MEDIA INTEREST IN USGS EARTHQUAKE PREDICTION

At 04:58 a.m. PST on November 14, 1993, the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) notified the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) that "there is a significant likelihood that an earthquake of about Magnitude 6 will occur on the San Andreas Fault near Parkfield [California] in the next 72 hours." A level A alert (a probability of 0.37 of the predicted earthquake occurring in 72 hours) was issued by OES because at 04:25 a.m. PST that morning a Magnitude 4.8 earthquake, a designated precursor to a long-expected larger earthquake, was registered on the fault 5 miles North West of Parkfield (51 miles from Diablo Canyon and 241 miles from San Onofre).

Diablo Canyon Unit 1 & 2 are now operating at 100% power. The 4.8 earthquake was slightly felt in the San Luis Obispo area but was not felt within the protected area of the plant. At the time of the 4.8 earthquake Unit 1 was at 100% power and Unit 2 was at 50% in preparation for conducting condenser cleaning. The licensee will not conduct plant modifications or maintenance activities on seismic supports during the remainder of the 72-hour alert. Scheduled work on the Component Cooling Water (CCW) strainer will be rescheduled until after the 72-hour alert has ended.

Seismic monitors at the site detected the Magnitude 4.8 earthquake. The acceleration was less than 0.01 g. The licensee has previously estimated a Magnitude 8.5 San Andreas earthquake would generate maximum ground motion of 0.1 g. Significant plant safety systems are analyzed to 0.75 g.

The licensee has responded to one local media inquiry. The San Luis Obispo County Emergency Operations Center has responded to several members of the public who have called the county rumor control phones. Region V has received no calls.

This information is current as of 11:30 a.m. PST on November 15, 1993.

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