

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: Southern California Edison Company  
 San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Unit No. 3  
 San Clemente, California  
 Docket No. 50-362

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

SUBJECT: DECLARATION OF UNUSUAL EVENT

The licensee declared an Unusual Event on March 7, 1983, at 2:03 p.m. The event was declared as a result of placing both Emergency Diesel Generators in an inoperable status while Unit 3 was in operational mode 3.

Technical Specifications require that each 92 days the fuel oil storage tanks be sampled and analyzed to establish that less than 2 mg of insolubles exist in 100 ml of fuel. The licensee received results indicating that the storage tank samples contained 2.0 mg and 2.9 mg per 100 ml, respectively. The licensee took immediate action to place the Unit in mode 5, as required.

The licensee feels that a bad sample was obtained since no new fuel was added to the tanks and the results of the previous analysis were on the order of two orders of magnitude less than the specified 2 mg per 100 ml. Action has been initiated to resample and reanalyze.

The diesel manufacturer contends that the observed level of insolubles is not a critical parameter in the diesel design.

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 Resident Inspector at about 2:15 p.m. on March 7, 1983. This information is current as of 4:15 p.m. on March 7, 1983.

This PN is being issued for information only.

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REGION V: FORM 211  
 (revised 11/24/83)