

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 1
 San Clemente, California
 Docket No. 50-206

Licensee Emergency Classification:

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

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF SIGNIFICANT EVENT - INADVERTENT
 LOSS OF INSTRUMENT AIR TO THE SALTWATER
 COOLING SYSTEM

At about 4:10 p.m. on 3/16/83, the licensee notified the IE:HQ Duty Officer, by the ENS, and the Senior Resident Inspector of the following event, pursuant to 10CFR50.72.

At 2:30 p.m. PDT on 3/16/83 a construction worker drilling holes in the circulating water intake structure accidentally drilled through an instrument air line which supplied instrument air to operate the two salt water cooling pumps discharge valves. The rupture of this line made it impossible to open the closed north salt water cooling pump discharge valve. The south salt water cooling pump was running at the time and it's discharge valve remained open following loss of instrument air. The ability to operate this valve was considered to be uncertain. Since the salt water cooling system is the ultimate heat sink for the plant, the licensee declared a significant event at 4 p.m. because of the apparent potential for the total loss of this system if the running south pump failed. At 11:15 p.m. temporary repairs to the ruptured line were made and at 11:45 p.m. the north pump discharge valve was opened and the north pump started. The licensee intends to maintain both pumps operating until permanent repair of the lines is completed. The plant has been in mode 5 since February 1982.

This preliminary notification is for information only.

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 Senior Resident Inspector at about 4:30 p.m. on 3/16/83. This information is current as of 8:45 a.m. on 3/17/83.

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