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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-V 81-24

Date: April 22, 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: Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Rancho Seco Nuclear Power Plant
Sacramento, California
Docket No. 50-312

DESIGNATED ORIGINAL
Certified By *Dot Neack*

Subject: UNCONTROLLED DISCHARGE OF REACTOR COOLANT

The plant was shutdown for refueling. On April 20, 1981 at 3:30 a.m., the Auxiliary Operator was shutting Decay Heat Removal valve DHS-002 (which is the reactor coolant system to decay heat removal pump B suction) locally, in preparation for a surveillance activity of cycling HV-26106 (which is the B decay heat removal pump suction isolation from the reactor emergency sump). Due to a communications misunderstanding, the Control Room Operator commenced cycling HV-26106 before DHS-002 was fully shut. This resulted in the discharge of 4500 gallons of reactor coolant to the containment emergency sump. Shortly after the valve began opening DHS-002 was shut, thus securing the discharge. The control Room Operator observed system pressure drop from 200 psig to 90 psig and pressurizer level drop very rapidly before DHS-002 was shut.

Licensee evaluations showed no significant radiological release and adequate cooling was maintained.

This item is closed for purposes of updating. This item is being followed by the Resident Inspector. This Preliminary Notification is being made due to an expected news release by the licensee later today. The NRC does not plan to issue a news release.

Region V (San Francisco) received notification of this occurrence by telephone call from the Resident Inspector at 11:00 a.m. on April 21, 1981. This information is current as of 2:00 p.m. on April 22, 1981.

CONTACT: A. E. Chaffee, FTS 463-3746 D. Sternberg, FTS 463-3737

Distribution:
Chairman Hendrie
Commissioner Gilinsky

Transmitted At St. 4:23 p.m.
Commissioner Ahearne
Commissioner Bradford
ACRS

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

Transmitted:
W. J. Dircks, EDO
C. Michelson, AEOD
J. J. Fouchard, PA
N. M. Haller, MPA
G. W. Kerr, SP
H. K. Shapar, F

MNBB: 4:18 p.m.

P. BLDG: 4:21 p.m.
H. R. Denton, NRR
R. H. Vollmer, NRR
T. E. Murley, NRR
D. F. Ross, NRR
D. Eisenhut, NRR
S. H. Hanauer, NRR

IE:TAS 4:26 p.m. (IE:HQ Dist.)

MAIL: R. G. Smith, SD
* S. Ebbin
IE:TAS
Document Mgt. Br.
(For PDR/LPDR)

REGIONAL OFFICES: I, II, III, IV.

Willste Bldg: 4:29 p.m.
J. G. Davis, NMSS
R. B. Minogue, RES