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**UNITED STATES**

**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

REGION V PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE, 1990 N. California Blvd., Walnut Creek, Ca. 94596

NRC:V-1776

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
(Mailed - March 18, 1976)

**HUMBOLDT NUCLEAR PLANT SHUT DOWN TO REPAIR SMALL PIPE LEAK**

The Pacific Gas & Electric Company has notified the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Region V office in Walnut Creek, California, that its Humboldt Bay Nuclear Power Plant will be shut down for at least a week to repair a small pipe leak in the plant's reactor coolant cleanup system.

The Humboldt Bay facility, located near Eureka, was shut down on March 17, and the company notified the NRC on March 18. An NRC inspector was sent to the site.

The leak was identified by a leak detection system and the plant was shut down normally. The leakage was within the reactor containment and there was no radiation hazard to plant personnel or the public.

According to information provided to the NRC, a one-inch long circumferential crack was found in a socket weld in a two-inch diameter stainless steel suction pipe in the reactor cleanup system. The cleanup system removes radioactivity and other impurities from the reactor coolant water. The leak rate was less than one gallon per minute and about 20% of the amount allowable under NRC specifications.

PG&E is investigating the problem and steps to repair the leak. The company informed the NRC that it expects the repairs to take at least a week.

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