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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-V:81-02

Date: January 15, 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 noack

Subject: PRIMARY COOLANT SYSTEM LEAK INTO COMPONENT COOLING WATER SYSTEM

At 9:45 AM (PST) on January 15, 1981, the Resident Inspector at Rancho Seco notified the Region V office that the process radiation monitor in the Component Cooling Water System (CCWS) was indicating radiation levels in excess of normal background, indicative of primary coolant system leakage into the CCWS.

A gamma spectrometer analysis of CCWS samples indicated the presence of Xe¹³³, Xe¹³⁵, I¹³¹, I¹³³, Cs¹³⁴, and Cs¹³⁷ at levels less than 10 CFR 20, Appendix B, Table II unrestricted area limits. The process radiation monitor normally reads 200 cpm which is equivalent to approximately 3 x 10⁻⁶ μCi/cc as calibrated with Cs¹³⁷ in liquid. On 1/13/81, the process monitor read 500 cpm which is equivalent to approximately 6 x 10⁻⁶ μCi/cc Cs¹³⁷. At 9:45 AM (PST) on 1/15/81, the process monitor read 600 cpm which is equivalent to approximately 9 x 10⁻⁶ μCi/cc Cs¹³⁷.

The licensee currently feels the leak may be through a sample cooler and has isolated this cooler to determine if it is the source. The licensee indicates it will require approximately 24 hours to make this evaluation.

The Rancho Seco facility is operating at 100 percent power and the licensee has no plans to reduce power or shut down operations at this time.

This incident has created local news media interest and the licensee has issued a news release. The NRC does not plan to issue a news release.

Region V (San Francisco) received notification of this occurrence from the Resident Inspector at 9:45 AM (PST) on January 15, 1981. This information is current as of 11:30 AM (PST) on January 15, 1981.

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