

NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-V-92-15A

Date: 05/07/92

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 Region V staff on this date.

FACILITY: ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY  
PALO VERDE UNIT 3  
DOCKET NO. 50-530  
WINTERSBURG, AZ.

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

SUBJECT: LOSS OF CONTROL ROOM PANEL ANNUNCIATOR WINDOWS AND AUDIBLE ALARMS  
(UPDATE)

At approximately 4:30 a.m. PDT on May 4, 1992, Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station Unit 3 experienced a loss of all control room annunciator windows and audible alarms. The plant was operating at 100% power. The plant computer provided alarm indication on a line printer and CRT in the control room. Due to the loss of the Core Operating Limits Supervisory System (COLSS) at 7:08 a.m. PDT, a controlled plant power reduction was initiated at 7:49 a.m. PDT from 100% to 70% power as required by Technical Specifications. At 8:19 a.m. PDT the plant computer became inoperable, and the licensee declared an ALERT.

This event was initiated at approximately 4:30 a.m. PDT when technicians, who were performing corrective maintenance in the control room, short circuited a line from a 480 volt AC power supply to a 24 volt DC supply line for the annunciator integration circuit. The resulting voltage transient caused a loss of control room annunciator windows and audio alarms. Digital and analog plant parameter indications remained available in the control room.

While maintaining the plant at a stable 70% power level the licensee performed Plant Review Board approved annunciator trouble shooting tests, field input contact inspections, and initiated a retest procedure to verify to a 95% confidence level that 95% of the annunciator circuitry was operable. Based on the results of the tests performed, the licensee replaced approximately 80 logic cards and 8 relay cards. After retest of the annunciator system was completed, the licensee concluded that the system was operable and exited the event ALERT classification at 11:21 p.m. PDT on May 6, 1992. The licensee plans to commence a controlled unit 3 reactor shutdown. The plant is expected to be in hot standby by about 5:00 a.m. PDT on May 7, 1992.

The licensee will conduct post shutdown testing of the annunciator system to further verify system operability and integrity.

Throughout the event, Region V staffed its Incident Response Center and maintained open communications with the licensee and NRC Headquarters. In addition, Region V dispatched management and inspector personnel to assist resident inspector personnel in their oversight and evaluation of the event.

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News media coverage throughout the event was continuous, however interest appeared to be moderate to low.

The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 11:30 p.m. PDT, May 6, 1992.

CONTACT: S. Richards, FTS 448-028/  
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