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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-V-85-16 Date: 3/14/85

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: Southern California Edison Co.  
San Onofre Nuclear Generating Co.  
Unit 3  
50-362

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

SUBJECT: INADVERTENT SAFETY INJECTION DURING UNIT COOLDOWN

On March 13, 1985, the licensee was performing a unit cooldown and depressurization from Mode 4 to Mode 5 to perform repairs to a leaking RTD thermowell. At 2:43 pm, PST, an inadvertent safety injection occurred with plant pressure at approximately 325 psig and temperature at approximately 290°F.

At 2:33 pm, PST, ten minutes prior to the event, the plant pressure had been 400 psi and 290°F and the licensee was preparing to bypass the Safety Injection signal in accordance with normal depressurization procedures. The plant pressure had been declining slowly and evenly and heat removal was being accomplished through the steam bypass valve to the condensers. The licensee currently suspects the bypass valve may have moved slightly in the open direction (due to sticking) and consequently increased the depressurization rate.

The event was caused by failure to bypass the Safety Injection signal prior to reducing plant pressure to 325 psig. The injection signal resulted in all ESF pumps starting, containment cooling actuating and the diesel generators starting. The Safety Injection Tanks partially injected and the HPSI pumps injected an estimated 1600 gallons of borated water into the RCS.

The maximum RCS pressure achieved was approximately 400 psig which did not violate pressure/temperature limitations. The HPSI pumps were secured at 2:45 pm, PST. The SIT isolation valves were shut between 2:46 pm and 2:48 pm, PST. Pressurizer level went off scale high. An unusual event was declared at 2:59 pm, PST, and was secured at 3:02 pm, PST. The H Duty Officer was notified at 3:42 pm, PST.

The licensee intends to issue a press release on 3/14/85. There were no radiation releases as a result of the event.

This information is current as of 8:00 am, PST, March 14, 1985.

CONTACT: P. P. Narbut FTS 463-3730  
P. H. Johnson FTS 463-3745

8503200411 850314  
PDR I&E  
PNO-V-85-016 PDR

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PDR (Reactor Licensees) REGION V: FORM 211  
Resident Inspector 3:39 (Revised 3/14/83)

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