

NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-V-92-19

Date: 06/22/92

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: PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY  
DIABLO CANYON UNITS 1 & 2  
DOCKET NOS. 30-275, 50-323  
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, CA

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

SUBJECT: HAZARDOUS WASTE SPILL AND NOXIOUS GASES IN TURBINE BUILDING

On June 20, 1992, at 5:35 p.m. (PDT), the licensee declared a Notification of Unusual Event (UE) as a result of a spill of hazardous material and associated noxious gases entering the turbine building.

Caustic and acid tanks in the 85 foot elevation condensate polisher area adjacent to the Unit 2 side of the turbine building were inadvertently overfilled. About 300 gallons of 93% sulfuric acid and 500 gallons of 50% sodium hydroxide were simultaneously discharged through a common drain line to an approximately 10 ft by 25 ft bermed area containing chemical transfer equipment. The resulting exothermic reaction splashed caustic liquid and released a cloud of acidic vapor which operators observed expanding above the bermed area.

Operators recognized the tanks were overfilling and shut off the pumps. The fire brigade responded and determined that the spill had stabilized. Assistance was also requested from the California Department of Forestry hazardous waste response team.

The hot gases entered the turbine building and traveled up the crane bay to the 140 foot elevation. Operators promptly shifted the control room and technical support center ventilation to the pressurization mode. Vital equipment in the turbine area was verified to be accessible by operators and security personnel using self contained breathing apparatus.

By about 10:30 p.m. (PDT), initial testing of some of the turbine building areas showed reduction of noxious gas concentrations to safe levels. Final confirmation of habitability of all turbine building areas occurred at 2:10 a.m. (PDT) on June 21, at which time the UE was secured.

Cleanup of the bermed area continued through the day of June 21. Only small areas remain chemically contaminated. Cleanup is expected to be completed this week. The licensee has initiated an investigation.

The resident inspector responded to the site and is monitoring the licensee's activities.

This information is current as of 8:00 a.m. (PDT), June 22, 1992.

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PDR I&E  
PNO-V-92-019 PDR

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FAX TO:

Date 6/22/92 Time: 11:30 a.m.

The Chairman  
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 HQS. OPERATIONS OFFICER  
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