



UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
DIVISION OF COMPLIANCE  
REGION V  
2111 BANCROFT WAY  
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94704

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September 3, 1971

CO Inquiry Report No. 7105

Subject: Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
Humboldt Bay Reactor  
Docket No. 050-0133  
Emergency Condenser - Limitorque Valve Failure

Prepared by: *J. L. Crews*  
J. L. Crews, Reactor Inspector

*9/7/71*  
Date

A. Date and Manner AEC Was Informed

Mr. A. W. Medcalf, Steam Generation Engineer, PG&E, notified Mr. Crews by telephone on September 3, 1971.

Mr. Crews obtained additional information relating to the occurrence by telephone discussion with Mr. E. D. Weeks, Power Plant Engineer, on September 3, 1971.

B. Description of Particular Event or Circumstance

At approximately 11:00 a.m. on September 3, 1971 the Limitorque valve which initiates emergency condenser operation failed to open during a planned functional test of the valve.

This occurrence was essentially identical to a similar malfunction of this valve, reported in February 1971.<sup>1/</sup> During the refueling shutdown which commenced on June 5, 1971, the motor for the valve was modified in an attempt to improve its reliability and performance.<sup>2/ 3/</sup>

The valve had been successfully operated during hot functional tests conducted on August 26 and 27, 1971.

- <sup>1/</sup> CO Inquiry Report, dated February 10, 1971.  
<sup>2/</sup> CO Report 50-133/71-1, dated April 2, 1971, page 4.  
<sup>3/</sup> CO Report 50-133/7102, dated September 3, 1971, page 7.

C. Action by the Licensee

The valve was manually opened, using a hand wheel operator at the valve, within approximately one-half hour of its malfunction on September 3, 1971.

The valve was then adjusted to a "cracked-open" position and successfully operated using the normal motor drive.

The decision has been made to leave the valve in the "cracked-open" position, and functionally check the valve daily for proper operation. This mode of operation is similar to that successfully employed during the previous operating cycle, following a similar malfunction of the valve during February 1971. This mode of operation will continue through the current weekend if results of the daily functional tests are satisfactory. Additional corrective actions will be considered during the week beginning September 6, 1971.

PG&E is to submit a written report of this occurrence to the Division of Reactor Licensing within 10 days.