

FRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-V-86-93 Date: 12/23/86

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 Nuclear Power Project
Palo Verde Unit 3
DOCKET NO. 50-530

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

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY DIESEL GENERATOR CRANKCASE MALFUNCTION.

At approximately 9:08 AM, MST, December 23, 1986, a crankcase malfunction occurred in the Palo Verde Unit 3 Train "B" diesel generator engine. The licensee had begun a 24 hour test run of the diesel generator at 6:39 AM, MST, and had raised the diesel generator load to 110% for a two hour run at 9:00 AM, MST, as required by the test procedure. There was no fire or personnel injuries involved. The licensee fire department personnel did respond. The cause of the malfunction is not known and is under investigation by the licensee. Extensive damage did occur to the diesel engine; two pistons broke and came through the side of the engine. Fuel and air were shut off to the engine, but the engine continued to run fueled by lubricating oil in the crankcase and air from the crankcase hole. Fire Department personnel injected foam into the crankcase hole and the engine stopped at approximately 10:00 AM. The machine involved has a rating of 5500 kw and was supplied by Cooper Energy Services, Inc. Unit 3 has been in the final stages of preoperational testing. Units 1 and 2, which were both operating at 100% power, were unaffected.

The licensee issued a press release to local media.

This information is current as of 10:30 AM (MST) December 23, 1986.

CONTACT: S. Richards R. Zimmerman/J. Ball
FTS 463-3853 (602) 386-5260

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