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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-V-87-09 Date: Feb. 5, 1987

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 Company
San Onofre Unit 3
Docket No. 50-362

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

SUBJECT: WORKER CONTAMINATION

On February 2, 1987, a plant worker repeatedly caused a portal radiation monitor to alarm on his exit from work activities in the Unit 3 containment building. Following repeated radiation surveys of the individual and decontamination efforts the worker was allowed to don his personal clothing and leave the site even though the portal monitor alarmed on his exit from the controlled area. On the worker's return to the site on February 3, 1987, he again alarmed the portal monitor. A health physics technician using a hand held portable survey instrument located a speck of radioactive material on the inside sleeve of his sweat shirt. The speck was analyzed and found to be composed of about 0.1 microcuries of mixed fission products. Surveys of the worker's residence did not reveal any detectable activity. Bounding dose estimates indicate the worker's forearm may have received a dose of between 1 and 10 rem.

NRC regulations limit occupational dose to a workers forearm to 18.75 rem per calendar quarter.

The licensee has been experiencing a problem with similar fuel fragments for about two years. The fragments are the result of a previous experience with leaking fuel pins. The licensee has implemented special mitigating measures in an effort to control exposure from the fragments. In response to this incident the licensee has directed that no one be allowed to leave the site following repeated portal monitor alarms without management approval. This action is in addition to other actions already in place to specifically address the fuel fragment issue.

The licensee has not made a press release.

This information is current as of 9:00 A.M., PST, February 5, 1987.

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