

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE --PN-75-47

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 OIE staff as of 3:00 p.m. on the date of this notification. IT SHOULD BE SPECIFICALLY NOTED THAT THIS NOTIFICATION MAY CONTAIN INFORMATION THAT LATER MAY BE DETERMINED TO BE INACCURATE OR INCONSISTENT. AN OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT NOTIFICATION OF AN INCIDENT OR OCCURRENCE (BLUE SHEET) SUBSEQUENTLY WILL BE ISSUED IF WARRANTED.

Facility: Rancho Seco
Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Subject: Failure of Turbine Blades

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District notified the NRC Region V office by telephone that an examination of their turbine disclosed that several blades had broken off of the fifth stage on the low pressure side of the turbine. The facility was shut down on July 1 to determine the cause of turbine vibrations which had reached 15 mils at the time of shutdown.

The examination revealed that several of the blades had broken off at the root, allowing the clamp between the blades and the rotor to shift. Westinghouse representatives characterize the problem as one which will require a minimum of two months to repair.

The licensee indicated that either a replacement rotor will be obtained from the Pacific Gas & Electric Company's Diablo Canyon project or the rotor will be sent to Sunnyvale, California for repair. In either event, it is estimated that a two-month shutdown will be required.

The licensee issued a press release when the facility was shut down. Region V is planning to issue a press release concerning the extended outage.

OIE (Region V) received initial notification of this occurrence by telephone from the Rancho Seco site management at approximately 3:00 p.m. on July 1, 1975, and supplemental information relating to the extent of damage was provided by telephone by site management on the morning of July 8, 1975.

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