

November 6, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-00-030

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the Region IV staff on this date.

Facility

Pacific Gas and Electric Co.
Diablo Canyon Units 1 and 2
Avila Beach, California
Docket: 50-275; 50-323
License: DPR-80; DPR-82

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL EXPLOSIVE DEVICE FOUND WITHIN THE PROTECTED AREA

DESCRIPTION: Diablo Canyon Unit 1 is in Mode 3, completing a refueling outage, and Unit 2 is operating at 100 percent power.

On November 5, 2000, the licensee identified what appeared to be an explosive device located in a contractor building within the protected area. The building is located in the vicinity of the 500 kV electrical power lines which come from the Unit 1 Main Bank Transformer; however, this location is such that an explosion would not have resulted in damage to the reactor plant or any engineered safety features equipment. Based upon the initial credibility of the threat, the licensee entered a security alert and declared a notification of unusual event at 1:20 a.m. PST. Local law enforcement and bomb squad personnel were notified. The Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) was also notified and an agent responded to the site.

At 2:45 a.m. PST, the responding law enforcement officers determined that the device contained no explosive material. Based on this determination, the licensee exited from the notification of unusual event at approximately 3:10 a.m. PST. The licensee completed a walkdown of the protected and vital areas and secured from the security alert at 1:38 p.m. PST. No other suspicious devices were located.

The NRC resident inspector responded to the site. The NRC's Information Assessment Team was briefed on the event and Region IV activated its Incident Response Center in the Monitoring Phase of the Normal Mode at 1:54 a.m. PST. Technical support was provided through the Headquarters response center. A Commissioners' Technical Assistants' briefing was held at 4 a.m. PST. The region secured from the Monitoring Phase of the Normal Mode at 1:55 p.m. PST after briefing senior Region IV management and the NRC Headquarters incident response organization, based upon the device no longer being on site and the licensee having completed its walkdown.

The state of California, local officials, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have been informed.

Both the NRC and the licensee have issued press releases. Region IV received notification of this occurrence by the Headquarters Operations Officer at approximately 1:39 a.m. PST. Region IV has informed the EDO, NRR, NMSS, and OPA.

This information has been discussed with the licensee and coordinated with the FBI and is current as of 3:15 p.m. PST, November 5, 2000.

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