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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-V-59 Date: 09/18/85

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 1
Docket No. 50-528

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

SUBJECT: REACTOR TRIP WITH SUBSEQUENT SAFETY INJECTION (PNO-V-85-58 UPDATE)

The licensee's review of the reactor trip and safety injection which resulted in the declaration of an Unusual Event on September 12, 1985, has been completed. The cause of the RCS cooldown which led to the low pressurizer pressure safety injection signal was determined to be due to a combination of an atmospheric dump valve being opened to control RCS temperature, the main steam line low point drain valves opening on a turbine trip signal, and the use of an auxiliary feedwater pump to maintain steam generator levels.

The licensee's review of the event also determined that the charging pumps became gas bound. The reference leg on the Volume Control Tank (VCT) was not completely full, resulting in a control board indicated level of 20% full, when in fact, the VCT was empty. This prevented the charging pump suction valves from automatically shifting to the Refueling Water Tank (RWT) at 5% low level in the VCT. In addition, the safety injection actuation signal removed power to the charging pump motor operated suction valves, per design. An auxiliary operator was dispatched to the appropriate motor control center and power was restored to the valves allowing isolation of the VCT suction and opening of the RWT suction to the charging pumps. The licensee's investigation determined the charging pumps were run approximately 5-10 minutes without flow; however, subsequent operability testing verified the pumps were undamaged.

Prior to restarting the unit the licensee modified the main steam drain valves to prevent the valves from automatically opening on a turbine trip. The VCT reference leg was filled, and the level will be checked weekly until the cause of the low reference leg is identified and corrected.

After the reactor was restarted on September 16, 1985, the load rejection test was re-performed and a reactor shutdown from the Remote Shutdown Panel was accomplished satisfactorily.

A detailed review of the Unusual Event by Region V and NRR concluded that a possible safety concern may exist in the availability of the charging pumps to provide auxiliary pressurizer spray. The licensee has agreed to remain in Hot Shutdown until the above concerns are resolved.

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Date: 09/18/85

This information is current as of 12:00 pm (PDT) September 17, 1985.

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(Revised 3/14/83)

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