

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-V-85-52

Date: 08/12/85

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 2
Docket No. 50-529

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

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL UNAUTHORIZED OPERATION OF EQUIPMENT

On August 5, 1985, a contract startup engineer performing preoperational testing on Unit 2, found five breaker power switches on the control element drive mechanism panels in other than the expected condition (switches were found closed). He returned the switches to the open position assuming the switches had been closed accidentally. On August 8, at about 2:15 pm, another contract startup engineer reported that 21 similar switches had been found in the closed position. Preliminary investigation by the licensee revealed that the panels had been checked by startup engineering on August 6 as part of a system walkdown, and the switches were open at that time.

Additionally, two recent incidents associated with two 13.8 KV electrical breakers at Unit 3 are also under licensee review to determine whether the events indicate poor maintenance practices, construction mischief, or possible tampering.

The licensee is currently conducting an investigation of the above events. The resident inspector is monitoring the licensee's actions.

Licensee investigation into previous potential tampering events (reported in PNO-V-85-41 and PNO-V-85-50) have been inconclusive, to date, in determining whether the reported incidents were accidental or purposeful in nature.

The licensee has notified local media.

This information is current as of 10:30 am (PDT), August 12, 1985.

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