

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

NRC Inspection Report: 30-09530/85-01

License: 36-15657-01

Docket: 30-09530

Licensee: Pacific Power & Light Company
920 Southwest Sixth Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204

Inspections at: Point of Rocks, Wyoming

Inspections Conducted: November 14, 1985

Inspector: R. J. Everett for
L. T. Ricketson, P.E., Radiation Specialist

2/6/86
Date

Approved: R. J. Everett
R. J. Everett, Chief, Nuclear Materials
Safety Section

2/6/86
Date

Inspection Summary

Inspection Conducted November 14, 1985 (Report: 30-09530/85-01)

Areas Inspected:

A special unannounced inspection was performed in response to the reported radiation exposure to unmonitored personnel. The inspection included interviews with plant personnel, observation of equipment orientation and independent measurements and calculations.

The inspection involved 2 inspector-hours onsite by one NRC inspector.

8602180295 860211
REG4 LIC30
36-15657-01 PDR

DETAILS1. Persons Contacted

Charles McCoy, Plant Engineer
Don Vincent, Plant Manager

2. Reason for Special Inspection

On October 19, 1985, Region IV received a call from PP&L officials stating that the shutter on a level gauge in a coal hopper had malfunctioned, resulting in the accidental exposure to individuals performing maintenance work inside the hopper.

3. Visit to the Bridger Power Plant

On November 14, 1985, the NRC inspector visited the power plant to observe the manner in which the devices were installed and used and to discuss the recent incident with licensee's representatives.

The NRC inspector met with the plant engineer who described the events leading to the accidental exposure of some plant workers. The following is a paraphrased account of those events: The plant uses level gauges, containing radioactive sources to indicate when coal levels are low in the hoppers. The gauge in question contains a 500 millicurie cesium-137 source. It is mounted on the exterior of an underground hopper and emits a 6 degree beam horizontally across the hopper.

Prior to scheduled maintenance, the fuelman closed the shutter on the level gauge. Because he was not an authorized user or under the supervision of an individual who was, this was identified by the NRC inspector as a violation of License Condition 12. The licensee's representative stated that an investigation revealed that in closing the shutter of the device, the fuelman moved the shutter past the closed position into a position which actually left the source partially exposed. Because the person responsible for radiation safety was not notified so that he might assure that the shutter was in its locked position as procedures call for, this was identified by the NRC inspector as a violation of License Condition 17.

Ten workers, total, were in the hopper between the hours of 12:40 a.m., October 18 and 5:30 a.m., October 19, 1985. They were installing new wear plates on the inside of the hopper. Working times varied from 11.3 hours to 14.3 hours for the different workers.

The problem was discovered approximately 24 hours later, when another fuelman noticed that the low coal indicator in the remote control room continued to alarm. The fuelman notified the shift supervisor, who in turn consulted with another supervisor, and determined the cause of the problem. The situation was corrected at 5:30 a.m. on October 19.

Region IV was notified on October 19 of the situation. At the request of the NRC, a representative of the Wyoming Department of Radiological Health Services visited the plant on October 22 and 23, 1985. He made radiation measurements, interviewed personnel, and performed radiation dose calculations. His calculations indicate that the highest probable dose to an individual was approximately 18 millirems ($\pm 35\%$). Because of the concern of the workers, the company provided for medical exams for the individuals involved. No adverse effects were discovered. The incident received media attention in the form of two newspaper articles.

4. Exit Meeting

An exit meeting was held with the Plant Engineer and the apparent violations were discussed. The Plant Engineer acknowledged his understanding of the inspection findings.

5. Enforcement Conference

An enforcement conference was held by telephone on December 12, 1985, between the Plant Manager, the Plant Engineer, and staff members from Region IV.

The NRC presented two violations of NRC requirements and expressed concern regarding the management control of the licensed program. The licensee representatives acknowledged the NRC inspector's findings and responded relative to their understanding of the violations and presented no information that would allow deletion or modification of the violations. The licensee described the actions taken or planned to bring the licensed program within full compliance of NRC requirements. The licensee also described the planned management controls that would be implemented to ensure full compliance would be maintained in the future. The NRC staff emphasized the enforcement options available and stated that a decision would be made as to the appropriate enforcement action and that the licensee would then be notified.

RICKETSON, LARRY T.

REVIEWER

INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Office of Inspection and Enforcement

INSPECTORS

LICENSEE/VENDOR

TRANSACTION
TYPEDOCKET NO. (8 digits) OR LICENSE
NO. (BY PRODUCT) (13 digits)

REPORT

NEXT INSP. DATE

NO. SEQ. MO. YR.

8501 A 71 85

B N/A

C

D

1 2 14 15 18

PERIOD OF INVESTIGATION/INSPECTION

INSPECTOR PERFORMED BY

ORGANIZATION CODE OF REGION/HQ CONDUCT-
ING ACTIVITY (See IEMC 0530 "Manpower Report-
ing--Weekly Manpower Reporting" for code.)

REGION DIVISION BRANCH

4 3 1

33 34 35

REGIONAL ACTION
(Check one box only)

TYPE OF ACTIVITY CONDUCTED (Check one box only)

- 1 - NRC FORM 591
2 - REGIONAL OFFICE LETTER

- 02 - SAFETY
03 - INCIDENT
04 - ENFORCEMENT
05 - MGMT. AUDIT

- 06 - MGMT. VISIT
07 - SPECIAL
08 - VENDOR
09 - MAT. ACCT.

- 10 - PLANT SEC.
11 - INVENT. VER.
12 - SHIPMENT/EXPORT
13 - IMPORT

- 14 - INQUIRY
15 - INVESTIGATION

INSPECTION/INVESTIGATION FINDINGS
(Check one box only)TOTAL NUMBER
OF VIOLATIONS AND
DEVIATIONSENFORCEMENT CONFERENCE
HELDREPORT CONTAIN 2,790
INFORMATION

LETTER OF REPORT TRANSMITTAL DATE

- 1 - CLEAR
2 - VIOLATION
3 - DEVIATION
4 - VIOLATION & DEVIATION

A B C D
02 1 - YES

A B C D
1 - YES

MO DAY YR. MO DAY YR.
02 1 86

MODULE INFORMATION

MODULE INFORMATION

REC- ORD	MODULE NUMBER INSP	PRIORITY	DIRECT INSP. EFFECT IN STAFF HOURS EXPENDED THIS INSPECTION	PERCENTAGE COMPLETED TO DATE	STATUS	MODULE REQ. FOLLOWUP	REC- ORD	MODULE NUMBER INSP	PRIORITY	DIRECT INSP. EFFECT IN STAFF HOURS EXPENDED THIS INSPECTION	PERCENTAGE COMPLETED TO DATE	STATUS	MODULE REQ. FOLLOWUP
TYPE	PHASE	MANUAL	CHAPTER	PROCEDURE	NUMBER	LEVEL	TYPE	PHASE	MANUAL	CHAPTER	PROCEDURE	NUMBER	LEVEL
B	530703B	A	0	0	0	1	B	575710B	A				
	MANAGEMENT							RADIOGRAPHY					
	MEETINGS												
B	587100	A	0	0	1	1	B		A				
	PROGRAM												
	REQUIREMENTS												
B	583822	A	0	0	1	1	B		A				
	RADIATION												
	PROTECTION												
B	586740	A					B		A				
	TRANSPORTATION												

* CIRCLE SEQUENCE IF
VIOLATION OR DEVIATION

INSPECTOR'S REPORT
(Continuation)
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

DOCKET NO. (8 digits) OR LICENSE
NO. (BY PRODUCT) (13 digits)

REPORT

MODULE NUMBER

NO

SEQ.

5787110101

6

VIOLATION SEVERITY OR DEVIATION

SITE
RELATED

1 2 3 4 5 6

A C

B D

27

28

VIOLATION OR DEVIATION (Enter up to 2400 characters for each item. If the text exceeds this number, it will be necessary to paraphrase. Limit lines to 50 characters each.)

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	A. License Condition 12 requires that licensed material shall be used by, or
7.	under the supervision of Don D. Vincent or Charles T. McCoy.
8.	
9.	Contrary to this requirement, on October 18, 1985, an individual not under
10.	the supervision of the designated personnel attempted unsuccessfully to
11.	close the shutter of a device containing licensed material.
12.	
13.	
14.	
15.	
16.	
17.	
18.	
19.	
20.	
21.	
22.	
23.	
24.	
25.	
26.	
27.	
28.	
29.	
30.	
31.	
32.	
33.	
34.	
35.	
46.	

INSPECTOR'S REPORT
(Continuation)

Office of Inspection and Enforcement

DOCKET NO. (8 digits) OR LICENSE
NO. (BY PRODUCT) (13 digits)

REPORT

MODULE NUMBER

NO.

SEQ.

5871100

6

03009530

8301

A

VIOLATION SEVERITY OR DEVIATION

SITE
RELATED

B

1 2 3 4 5 6

C

1

D

27

28

VIOLATION OR DEVIATION (Enter up to 2400 characters for each item. If the text exceeds this number, it will be necessary to paraphrase. Limit lines to 50 characters each.)

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
48.

B. License Condition 17 requires that licensed activities shall be conducted in accordance with statements, representations, and procedures contained in the radioactive materials license application dated July 1, 1983, and letters dated October 13, 1983, and October 15, 1984.

Item 15 of the application states that in the event work must be done in the vessel being monitored, the person responsible for radiation safety will be notified to assure that the shutter is locked in the closed position before such work begins.

Contrary to this requirement, on October 18, 1985, the person responsible for radiation safety was not notified of work to be done in the vessel so that the shutter of the device could be locked in the closed position.

Collectively, these violations have been evaluated in the aggregate as a Severity Level III problem (Supplements IV and VI).

(Cumulative Civil Penalties - \$500 - assessed equally between the violations).