

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-V-85-87 Date: 12/16/85

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: Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Rancho Seco Nuclear Power Plant
Sacramento County, California
Docket No. 50-312

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

SUBJECT: UNIDENTIFIED REACTOR COOLANT LEAK AT RANCHO SECO

During the morning of December 15, 1985, while escalating power to 100%, the licensee identified a steam leak from the room in which the normal reactor coolant makeup pump was located. The leak was calculated to be approximately 3 gallons per minute based on a leak rate determination. Almost simultaneously with the discovery of steam, an auxiliary building radiation alarm at the "ALERT" level was received. The shift supervisor believed that the leak was from the makeup pump's piping, and ordered the pump isolated. This secured the leakage, allowing inspectors to determine that the leak was indeed from a instrument line weld on the discharge piping of the makeup pump. The leak was not reported by the licensee as an Unusual Event due to a decision that the leakage was never "unidentified" and greater than 1 gpm. The details of the event and the licensee's decision making are under review by Region V.

Region V has maintained continuous inspection coverage of plant operation since the plant went critical on December 12, 1985.

This information is current as of 1445 hours (PST) on December 16, 1985.

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