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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-V-85-90 Date: 12/26/85

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
☐ Not Applicable

SUBJECT: LOSS OF ELECTRIC POWER TO INTEGRATED CONTROL SYSTEM - REACTOR TRIP AND COOLDOWN

On December 26, 1985, at 4:14 AM PST, the Rancho Seco plant, while operating at about 70% of full power with the reactor coolant system at 582°F and 2155 psig., experienced a loss of electrical power to the integrated control system. This resulted in a reactor/turbine trip from high reactor coolant pressure (2,300 psig.). The power was restored at 4:41 AM PST. During the event Emergency Core Cooling was initiated and the reactor coolant temperature decreased to approximately 400°F. Subsequently by 5:15 AM, the reactor coolant pressure and temperature were stabilized at approximately 800 psig. and 440°F to permit a three hour stabilizing condition for reactor vessel consideration. A loss of seals on a reactor coolant makeup pump resulted in a release of airborne radioactive material from the Auxiliary Building vent stack. This release was monitored and did not exceed the technical specifications allowable levels.

The licensee plans to go to cold shutdown and fully evaluate the circumstances and consequences of the event. Region V has issued a Confirmatory Action Letter which states that Rancho Seco will remain in the shutdown condition until a root cause analysis is completed by the licensee and a briefing is provided to the NRC giving the results of this analysis and the licensee's justification for return to power.

The licensee has scheduled a press conference for 11:00 AM PST.

The licensee declared an unusual event at 4:31 AM PST and was terminated at 8:41 AM PST. The NRC Headquarters Duty Officer was notified of the event at 4:42 AM PST. Region V personnel maintained contact with licensee personnel in the reactor control room during the event commencing at about 5:10 AM PST.

This information is current as of 10:30 AM, PST, 12/26/85.

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(Revised 3/14/83)

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