

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE – PNO-1-08-009A

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the Region I staff on this date.

Facility

Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
 Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1
 Brattleboro, VT
 Docket No.: 50-271
 License No.: DPR-28

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: UPDATE - WATER LEAK IN A COOLING TOWER AT VERMONT YANKEE

Entergy returned Vermont Yankee's west cooling tower to service at approximately 4:25 a.m. on Wednesday, July 16. Entergy had removed the east and west towers from service on July 11, 2008, following the discovery of a 60 gpm leak in cell 1-1 in the east tower. The leak was attributed to a broken horizontal pipe support located directly beneath the pipe. The towers were removed from service to allow for extent of condition inspections and repairs.

An NRC special inspection team (SIT) was established in response to the July 11, 2008, leak. The team, which arrived on site on Monday, July 14, has completed its near-term review of the safety-related cooling tower cell (2-1) and the adjacent, seismically-qualified cell (2-2). The team reviewed the preliminary cause of the July 11 failure in cell 1-1 and ensured, through hands-on inspection, that similar degraded conditions do not exist in cells 2-1 and 2-2. The team reviewed all deficiencies identified by the licensee in cells 2-1 and 2-2 and confirmed that appropriate corrective actions were implemented. For example, the licensee replaced cracked boards, and replaced a horizontal support structure that was not in accordance with the plant drawings. Additionally, the team performed an independent structural inspection of cells 2-1 and 2-2. The team has determined that there are no conditions challenging the operability of these cells.

The NRC has communicated these initial SIT results to state representatives from Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts.

The information presented herein has been discussed with Entergy and is current as of July 16, 2008, at 8:00 a.m.

This preliminary notification is being issued for information only.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML081980107

Contacts:	B. Norris (610) 337-5111 barry.norris@nrc.gov	N. Sieller (610) 337-5380 nicole.sieller@nrc.gov
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SUNSI Review Complete: BN (Reviewer's Initials)

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