

DCS No.:

Date: 07/22/2008

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

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 east cooling tower to service at approximately 2:50 a.m. on Tuesday, July 22. The east tower is available for use, if needed to meet the State required thermal discharge limits; however, the tower is not currently needed because of favorable river conditions (i.e., flow and temperature). The NRC Senior Resident Inspector completed a walk down of the east tower on July 20, prior to the licensee initiating a wetting and 24 hour soak, and identified no issues or concerns.

Entergy had removed the east and west towers from service on July 11, following the discovery of a 60 gpm leak in cell 1-1 in the east tower. The leak was attributed to broken horizontal pipe supports located directly beneath the pipe. Entergy removed the towers from service to allow for extent of condition inspections and repairs.

The NRC conducted a special inspection, from July 14 to 17, and, in accordance with the SIT Charter, completed its near-term review of the safety-related cooling tower cell (2-1) and the adjacent, seismically-qualified cell (2-2) prior to the licensee putting the west tower back in service on July 16.

The NRC has communicated this update information to state representatives from Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts.

The information presented herein has been discussed with Entergy and is current as of July 22, 2008, at 12:45 p.m.

This preliminary notification is being issued for information only.

ADAMS Accession Number: **ML082050034**

Contacts: B. Norris
(610) 337-5111
barry.norris@nrc.gov

N. Sieller
(610) 337-5380
nicole.sieller@nrc.gov

DISTRIBUTIONS:

BY E-MAIL:

Chairman Klein
Comm. Jaczko
Comm. Lyons
Comm. Svinicki

OIP
OCA
OGC
EDO
OE
NRR
NMSS
OIG
RES
ACRS
FSME
NRO
NSIR
OPA
SECY

Regional Offices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts - John.Giarrusso@state.ma.us

State of Vermont - jangil@dps.state.vt.us; uldis.vanags@state.vt.us; bfarr@dps.state.vt.us

State of New Hampshire - CPope@nhoem.state.nh.us; Kathryn.Doutt@hsem.nh.gov

BY FAX:

DOT:Trans
INPO
NSAC

RI Resident Office

Licensee: Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
Vermont Yankee

Region I Form 83
(Rev. Nov. 21, 2006)

SUNSI Review Complete: BSN (Reviewer's Initials)

ML082050034

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\DRP\PNs\PNO-I-08-009B - VY SIT on Cooling Towers update 2.doc

After declaring this document "An Official Agency Record" it **will** be released to the Public.

To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the box: "C" = Copy without attachment/enclosure "E" = Copy with attachment/enclosure "N" = No copy

OFFICE	RI/DRP				RI/SLO		RI/DRP	
NAME	BNorris/BSN				NMcNamera/NM		J Clifford/DCL for	
DATE	07/22 /08				07/22/08		07/ 22/08	

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY