

PRIORITY ATTENTION REQUIRED MORNING REPORT - REGION I APRIL 14, 1993

Licensee/Facility:	Notification:
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp.	MR Number: 1-93-0034
Vermont Yankee 1	Date: 04/14/93
Vernon, Vermont	RI PC

Dockets: 50-271  
BWR/GE-4

Subject: SLOW CONTROL ROD DRIVE SCRAM INSERTION TIMES

Reportable Event Number: 25386

Discussion:

At 10:00 p.m. on April 6th, the NRC granted enforcement discretion for 48 hours from Technical Specifications, in order to allow the licensee time to perform a comprehensive evaluation of control rod drive performance and to provide a revised limit for the remainder of the operating cycle. Vermont Yankee determined that the average core wide scram insertion time for rod notch position 46 exceeded the TS limit (0.358 seconds) by 11 milliseconds. In addition, nine 2-by-2 rod arrays also exceeded the TS time limit (0.379 seconds). No individually inoperable control rods were identified, and the "drop out" times for notch positions 36, 26, 06 were within specification. Subsequently, at 10:33 p.m., an unrelated plant shutdown was conducted to repair a leak in the feedwater system.

The licensee formed several Task Teams to determine root cause for the slow scram insertion times, and to review scram time test methods and data evaluation techniques. A CRD expert from GE is onsite as a team

member. On April 10, the problem was attributed to slow response of the scram solenoid pilot valves (SSPV) on the hydraulic control units, specifically on exhaust diaphragm assembly. The SSPVs are ASCO Model Number HVA90-4050-2A.

On April 12, the licensee reported that an insertion time had been exceeded for one 2-by-2 array during single rod testing performed on October 15, 1992. Past surveillance practices continue to be evaluated. The licensee is replacing/rebuilding all SSPVs and will perform full core (89 CRDs) testing prior to startup. The reactor has been in a cold shutdown condition since April 8th, with startup projected for April 17th, pending review of licensee Task Team results.

Regional Action:

Several conference calls have been held between NRC and licensee staff. The resident inspectors are monitoring the licensee's actions, and Region I specialist inspectors have initiated a review of equipment performance and surveillance practices.

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