

RT
From: Neil Sheehan
To: INTERNet: pgunter@nirs.org
Date: 6/18/04 4:34PM
Subject: Fwd: transformerfire.doc

Paul,

The Event Notification on the Vermont Yankee transformer fire will not be available until Monday morning. However, I've forwarded to you a copy of the company's press release on the event.

Regards,
Neil
NRC Public Affairs

C-134

From: "Williams, Rob" <rwill23@entergy.com>
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Date: 6/18/04 4:23PM
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FYI: We are distributing the following news release this afternoon.

Entergy Vermont Yankee

185 Old Ferry Road

Brattleboro, Vt. 05301

News

Release

Date:

June 18, 2004

For Release:

Immediate

Contact:

Rob Williams
(802) 258-4181
rwill23@entergy.com

Unusual Event Declared at Vermont Yankee Due to Electrical Transformer Fire

On Friday at 6:50 a.m., an unusual event was declared at Vermont Yankee due to a fire in the electrical conduits leading to the main transformer, which is located outside the plant in an area adjacent to the turbine building. There was also a small fire inside the turbine building that was quickly extinguished. Plant systems responded as designed and the reactor was safely shut down.

An unusual event is the lowest level of emergency as defined by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. NRC regulations require that an unusual event be declared at any nuclear plant where there is a fire that lasts longer than 10 minutes.

The transformer fire was extinguished at 7:17 a.m. with no injuries and no release of radiation to the environment as a result of this event. The plant's emergency responders were the first firefighters on the scene. Outside local fire department assistance was also requested from Vernon, Guilford and Brattleboro, Vermont and the town of Northfield, Massachusetts. The unusual event was terminated at 12:45 p.m.

A representative from the state fire marshal's office was at Vermont Yankee this afternoon working with the plant's emergency responders to determine the cause of the fire. Plant management is also conducting a root-cause analysis of the event and assessing damage. At present there are no estimates of when the plant will come back on-line.

As a result of the fire, between 10 and 20 gallons of transformer oil entered the Connecticut River through a storm drain near the plant. Vermont Yankee has placed protective booms in the river to contain the materials, which have formed a thin sheen on the surface of the water in the immediate vicinity of the plant. Clean Harbors, a company that specializes in cleaning up oil and chemicals spills, is on site and performing remedial actions, including cleaning a small amount of oil from the rocks on the river bank where the storm drain enters the river.

Earlier in the day, the environmental engineering firm of Normandeau Associates was called to the scene and found no damage to fish or other wildlife near the plant. Normandeau will continue to monitor any environmental impacts on the river over the next several weeks.

- more -

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June 18, 2004

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Entergy Vermont Yankee Site Vice President Jay Thayer said the focus of today's activities has been on safety. "From our point of view, the most important issue is that there have been no injuries or threats to the public health or safety as a result of today's fire," he said. "We are grateful for the excellent response from our in-house fire brigade and from the fire departments from the local towns. We will spend the next few days determining the cause of the fire and assessing the damage, and we will get the plant back on-line as soon as is safely possible."

Entergy Nuclear's online address is www.entergy-nuclear.com <<http://www.entergy-nuclear.com/>>

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