

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE - PNO-I-08-009

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: WATER LEAK IN A COOLING TOWER AT VERMONT YANKEE

On July 11, 2008, at 9:45 a.m., Vermont Yankee identified a 30-60 gpm leak in the east header pipe for the circulating water supply to the east cooling tower. They found a broken wooden horizontal support for the pipe in Cell 1-1, and identified that the water deck below the pipe was sagging; there was no observed sagging of the roof above the leak. Subsequently, the licensee identified similar damage to the wooden horizontal pipe supports in Cells 2-3 and 2-4 in the west tower, there was no leakage from the header in the west tower. The station has reduced power to 46% to remove both cooling towers from service. Vermont Yankee has two cooling towers, each tower consists of eleven cells. Only one cell in the west tower, designated Cell 2-1, is considered to be safety-related; the safety-related function of this cell is unaffected.

The NRC Resident Inspector was on-site to respond to the event. The NRC will continue to evaluate the event. The NRC Region I Public Affairs Office is prepared to respond to media inquiries. The NRC notified the State of Vermont.

Region I received initial notification of this occurrence by telephone call from the Resident Inspector staff at approximately 11:20 a.m. The information presented herein has been discussed with Entergy and is current as of July 11, at 2:45 p.m.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only, and no further preliminary notification update by the staff is anticipated.

ADAMS Accession Number ML
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Licensee: Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
Vermont Yankee

Region I Form 83
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SUNSI Review Complete: BSN (Reviewer's Initials)

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