

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE - PNO-I-10-002**

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: LOSS OF NORMAL COMMUNICATIONS / STORM IMPACT OFFSITE AT  
VERMONT YANKEE

A severe storm passed through southern Vermont resulting in a loss of landline telephone communications with the Vermont Yankee site around 2:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 27, due to damaged lines impacted by falling trees. A microwave phone link with the electrical transmission system operator, as well as cell phone service, remained available to Vermont Yankee during the storm. Most telephone communication was restored by Thursday afternoon. Several hours before the storm, Vermont Yankee had shut down due to an electrical problem unrelated to this storm.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) informed the NRC it was conducting a Disaster Initiated Review (DIR) on Friday, May 28, to confirm that the condition of the offsite emergency response infrastructure, following repairs of storm-related damage, was adequate to ensure that the State of Vermont can perform its emergency response functions. The NRC informed Entergy management at 7:10 p.m. on May 27, 2010, that the plant could not be restarted until FEMA reaffirms its reasonable assurance of the adequacy of offsite emergency preparedness to the NRC. A member of the NRC participated in the FEMA evaluation team.

On May 28, FEMA completed the DIR and informed the NRC that they had reasonable assurance of the adequacy of offsite emergency preparedness regarding the State of Vermont. FEMA also reconfirmed that there was reasonable assurance of the adequacy of offsite emergency preparedness in the State of New Hampshire and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The NRC informed Entergy management at 2:14 p.m. that the plant could be restarted.

The NRC has followed the licensee's activities and has coordinated with FEMA to confirm the adequacy of offsite emergency preparedness. The NRC Region I Public Affairs Office has responded to media inquiries regarding the shutdown and the loss of normal communications.

The information presented herein has been discussed with Entergy and is current as of May 28, at 2:30 p.m. This preliminary notification is issued for information only.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML101480148  
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Licensee: Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.  
Vermont Yankee

**SUNSI Review Complete: RSB (Reviewer's Initials)**

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