

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Date: September 28, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-1-79-03

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff on this date.

Facility: Maine Yankee Nuclear Power Station
Wiscasset, Maine
Docket No. 50-309

POOR ORIGINAL

Subject: UNSCHEDULED RELEASE OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL

An unscheduled gaseous release occurred at 1:05 a.m., September 28, 1979, during venting of a Safety Injection (SI) Tank. Lack of adequate coordination between personnel venting the SI Tank and the operator at the Waste Gas Storage Drum resulted in blowing out a loop seal and venting gas in the storage drum to the Primary Vent Stack. Three hundred cubic feet of gas was released over a 3 minute period with the following major isotopic concentrations: Xe-133, 5.0 E-1 uCi/cc; Xe-131m, 4.46 E-2 uCi/cc; and Kr-85, 3.1 E-2 uCi/cc. No release rate limits or other technical Specification limits were exceeded.

Media interest is expected because of the general concern with respect to nuclear reactor facilities. The State of Maine has been informed. A press release is not planned by the licensee or NRC at this time.

Region I (Philadelphia) received notification of this matter by telephone from the licensee at 1:55 p.m. on September 28, 1979.

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