

Closed
WR

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

May 25, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-79-127

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of event 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 Atomic Power Company
Maine Yankee (DN 50-309)

Subject: PERSONNEL ERROR

During the August 1978 refueling outage, calibrations were performed on the steam generator pressure transmitters and associated bistables. The technician erroneously re-set the steam generator low pressure reactor trip bistables at a value of 414 psi, ~70 psi lower than the technical specification limit of 485 psi. This failure to follow procedures resulted in operation of the facility for the period from August 1978 to March 15, 1979 with a less conservative reactor trip setpoint than that specified in the Safety Analysis Report. This error was discovered during testing in preparation for reactor startup.

Media interest is expected because of the current startup of the facility from a prolonged shutdown. The State of Maine has been informed. A press release will be issued by NRC.

NRC, Region I (Philadelphia) received notification of this occurrence by telephone from a Region I inspector on May 25, at 8:30 a.m.

Contact: SEBryan, IE x28019 ELJordan, IE x28180

Distribution: Transmitted H St 5:35
Chairman Hendrie Commissioner Bradford
Commissioner Kennedy Commissioner Ahearne
Commissioner Gilinsky ACRS

S. J. Chilk, SECY
C. C. Kammerer, CA
(For Distribution)

Transmitted: MNBB 5:40
L. V. Gossick, EDO
H. L. Ornstein, EDO
J. J. Fouchard, PA
N. M. Haller, MPA
R. G. Ryan, OSP
H. K. Shapar, ELD

P. Bldg 5:45
H. R. Denton, NRR
R. C. DeYoung, NRR
R. J. Mattson, NRR
V. Stello, NRR
R. S. Boyd, NRR
SS Bldg 5:50
W. J. Dircks, NMSS
S. Levine, RES

J. G. Davis, IE
Region I ~~5:51~~

11:005/29

(MAIL)
J. J. Cummings, OIA
R. Minogue, SD

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

AEA 059

7908030240*