

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Date: July 2, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-80-96

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: Northeast Nuclear Energy Company
Millstone Nuclear Power Station
Unit 2 (DN 50-336)
Waterford, Connecticut

Subject: DESIGN ERROR IN NEW FUEL ASSEMBLIES

The licensee received notification from the Westinghouse Electric Corporation, at 9:00 a.m., July 1, 1980, that 72 new fuel bundles presently onsite for the scheduled August 1980 refueling outage were fabricated with a design error in one of the dimensions. Due to designing to cold dimensions rather than to hot dimensions, the length of the control element assembly (CEA) guide tube is not sufficient to allow for unequal expansion between the CEA and the guide tube. The licensee is presently making preparations to ship the new fuel bundles back to Westinghouse for modification. The potential exists for a delay in the scheduled refueling outage.

Media interest is expected. The State of Connecticut has been informed. The licensee plans to issue a press release today.

Region I received notification of this occurrence from the licensee at 4:30 p.m., July 1, 1980.

This PN is issued for information only. Follow-up will be performed by personnel from the NRC Resident Office on site. A 10 CFR 21 report will be submitted by either the licensee or its fuel supplier.

Contact: R. R. Keimig 488-1252 E. J. Brunner 488-1240

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Region IV 12:14
Region V 12:15

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Region I Form 83
(Rev. June 1980)

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