

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Date: May 5, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-80- 70

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: Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Company
Haddam Neck (DN 50-213)
Haddam Neck, Ct.

Subject: UNPLANNED GASEOUS RADIOACTIVITY RELEASE

At 7:50 A.M., May 4, 1980, a spike release of gaseous radioactivity occurred during transfer of ion exchange resin to the Acrated Drain Tank (ADT) when the filter was bypassed because of high differential pressure. The release lasted about 30 minutes and peak counts were 4000 cps (nominal limit is 3300). Total release was about 10 Ci, and the maximum release rate was calculated to be 166% of the instantaneous release limit. Resin transfer continued. At the end of the transfer evolution another 30-45 minute release occurred, reaching 278% of the instantaneous release rate limit, with the peak stack monitor reading reaching 8000 cps at 9:00 a.m., and with about 28 Ci released. The second release was hypothesized to have been caused by rapid ADT level increase when the resin cleared the transfer lines, forcing air back up the Primary Auxiliary Building (PAB) drain lines and past the loop seals. Radiation alarms were received in the PAB and it was evacuated until levels returned to normal.

The licensee committed to terminate resin transfers until NRC concurrence in resumption is obtained. An NRC Region I Radiation Specialist was dispatched to the site on May 4, 1980 and confirmed that the licensee's response was in accordance with his emergency plan. On site inspection will verify adequacy of licensee management controls before additional resin transfers are undertaken.

The State of Connecticut has been notified. Media interest has occurred. The licensee issued a press release. NRC Region I and the HQ:DO have responded to media inquiries. NRC Region I received notification of the 7:50 a.m. release at 8:59 a.m. (by relay of an 8:05 a.m. OPX report to the HQ:DO) and was notified of the 9:00 a.m. release at 9:34 a.m. (by relay of a 9:24 a.m. OPX report to the HQ:DO).

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POOR QUALITY PAGES

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