

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-89-90

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:  
Maine Yankee  
Wiscasset, Maine  
Docket No. 50-309

Licensee Emergency Classification:  
 Notification of Unusual Event  
 Alert  
 Site Area Emergency  
 General Emergency  
 Not Applicable

Subject: UNPLANNED SHUTDOWN FOR MORE THAN 48 HOURS

About 4:00 p.m., November 7, 1989 the licensee began a controlled plant shutdown due to deterioration of the Number 1 Reactor Coolant Pump (RCP-1) first and second stage shaft seals. Based on the RCP-1 seal failure mode, the licensee will decide on whether to also replace the RCP-3 seal package. (Because of seal deterioration, The RCP-2 seal package was replaced during a mid-October 1989 shutdown.) The current shutdown is projected to last 6 days, with an additional 2-3 days required if the RCP-3 seals are replaced.

RCP seals are a recurrent problem at Maine Yankee. During the last refueling outage, new model (N-9000) seals were installed in all three RCPs (manufactured by Byron-Jackson) and failed shortly after the end of the outage. The licensee attributed the problem to seal sensitivity to dirt particles and reinstalled the older model (S/U) seal packages which have since deteriorated. The licensee is still trying to resolve the seal performance problem.

The resident inspector and the NRR project manager are onsite following licensee activities.

The State of Maine has been notified.

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Licensee: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Reactor Licensees)

Region I Form 83  
(Rev. April 1988)

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