

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Date: October 6, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-80-144

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: Nuclear Fuel Services
West Valley, New York
(DN 50-201)

Subject: ONSITE METEOROLOGICAL TOWER HIT BY LIGHTNING

At about 4:30 pm on October 3, 1980, the onsite meteorological tower was hit by lightning during an electrical storm. All of the data measuring and recording equipment was damaged beyond repair. The lightning also disrupted the electronic equipment associated with the plant security, P/A, and telephone systems. All plant systems with the exception of the meteorological equipment were back in operation by noon on October 5, 1980. Portable systems were used by the licensee in the interim. Adequate compensatory measures were taken with respect to plant security. Meteorological data is being obtained as needed from equipment installed on the plant stack. There were no injuries to personnel at the plant.

Media interest is expected because of ongoing publicity about this plant. A press release is not planned by the licensee nor NRC at this time.

This PN is issued for information only. This incident will be reviewed during the next routine inspection at this facility. The State of New York has been notified.

Region I received notification of the occurrence by telephone call from the licensee at 11:19 am on October 6, 1980.

Contact: J. Roth H. W. Crocker G. H. Smith
 488-1207 488-1217 488-1200

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