

DCS No: 50271910423
Date: April 24, 1991

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-91-32

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:	Licensee Emergency Classification:
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notification of Unusual Event
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station	<input type="checkbox"/> Alert
Vernon, Vermont	<input type="checkbox"/> Site Area Emergency
Docket No. 50-271	<input type="checkbox"/> General Emergency
	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable

Subject: AUGMENTED INSPECTION TEAM (AIT) DISPATCHED TO REVIEW LOSS OF OFFSITE POWER EVENT

On April 23, 1991, at 2:48 p.m., a complete loss of power to the station's 345kv and 115kv switchyards occurred as a result of maintenance activities being conducted on switchyard batteries. A subsequent turbine-generator trip and automatic reactor scram from full power occurred. The emergency diesel generators (EDG) automatically started and accepted load on safeguard buses 3 and 4 due to the loss of power to the station 4.16kv buses. All plant systems responded normally. An unusual event was declared as a result of the loss of offsite power at 3:17 p.m.

The startup transformers, which provide normal shutdown and startup power to the plant buses, were unavailable due to the loss of power to the 115kv switchyard. This switchyard, which is provided power from an offsite 115kv Keene line (K186 breaker) and an interconnect to the 345kv switchyard via an auto transformer (K1 breaker), was de-energized due to equipment problems occurring from the loss of DC control power related to the battery maintenance. Non-essential buses 1 and 2 remained de-energized until 7:49 p.m. when the k186 115kv switchyard breaker was closed and power restored. While EDGs provided power to the safeguards buses, the licensee continued efforts to restore alternate supplies of offsite power. Following the backfeed of 345kv switchyard power via the main station transformer to the stations non-essential buses, and powering the safeguards buses the EDGs were secured by 4:45 a.m.

Reactor Pressure was being maintained between 600 and 1000 psi using the reactor core isolation cooling and high pressure coolant injection systems. Safety relief valves are being used intermittently. The licensee anticipates placing the reactor in a cold shutdown condition by 6:00 p.m. on 24 April.

The progress of placing the reactor in cold shutdown condition is dependent on the methodical restoration of some secondary systems. The actual cause of the switchyard failure is yet to be determined. The licensee will remain in the Unusual Event until systems are normalized.

Two NRC inspectors responded to the site to monitor licensee activities. The inspectors arrived on-site at approximately 6:40 p.m. on April 23. The states of VT, NH, and MA were notified of this event. The licensee has issued a press release.

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The Regional Administrator is sending an Augment Inspection Team to the site to review the event. The team will report to the Regional Administrator and is comprised of Clifford Anderson (RI) team leader; Peter Drysdale (RI); A. Della Greca (RI); Thomas Hiltz (RI).

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Region I Form 83
(Rev. April 1988)