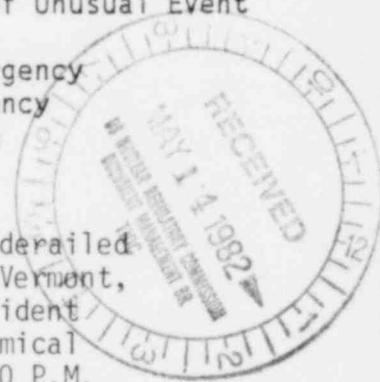


PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-82- 36

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: Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp.  
Vermont Yankee N.P.S. (DN 50-271)  
Vernon, Vermont

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



Subject:

At 2:15 P.M. on 5/10/82, a Boston and Maine Railroad freight train derailed at the junction of the West and Connecticut Rivers in Brattleboro, Vermont, about 6 miles North (upstream) of the Vermont Yankee Site. The incident left 6 of 8 chemical tank cars off the tracks and resulted in a chemical spill into the river. The licensee declared as Unusual Event at 2:40 P.M. based on preliminary information available on the derailment, and assuming that the then undefined chemicals posed a potential hazard to the plant. Preparations were made to switch from Open Cycle to the Closed Cycle Mode of circulation water cooling to preclude intrusion of hazardous chemicals into the plant. State and Local notifications were made. Samples of the river water were taken at the plant Intake Structure.

Additional information received from offsite authorities revealed that 3 of the 6 tank cars went into the river and 2 of those were empty alcohol tankers. The third was a hopper car, open at the top, which contained sodium sulfate and some of its contents had spilled into the river. Two of the three remaining cars that derailed were also empty alcohol tankers; the sixth chemical tanker, containing liquid chlorine, remained intact during the derailment. The sodium sulfate was deemed not to pose a hazard to plant cooling systems. Licensee analyses of river water at 3:30 P.M. showed no sulfate concentrations above normal background levels. Based on the above information, the licensee de-escalated from the Unusual Event category at 3:50 P.M. An additional river sample at 6:00 P.M. showed no increase in sulfate concentrations.

This Preliminary Notification is Issued for Information Only.

Media interest occurred due to the derailment and due to the sensitivity to nuclear power issues in the area. The licensee responded to press inquiries. No press release is planned by the NRC. The State of Vermont has been informed.

NRC Region I (Philadelphia) received initial notification of this event by telephone on May 10, 1982 from the Headquarters Duty Officer and the Senior Resident Inspector at 2:45 P.M. The initial ENS notification was made by the licensee at 2:42 P.M.

Contact: W. J. Raymond/S. J. Collins      R. Gallo      E. J. Brunner  
802-257-4319                              488-1234                              488-1225

DISTRIBUTION:

H. St.	MNBB	Phillips	<u>10:55</u>	E/W		ADM:DMB
Chairman Palladino	EDO	NRR		IE		DOT:Trans. Only
Comm. Gilinsky	PA			OIA	NMSS	
Comm. Ahearne	MPA			AEOD	RES	
Comm. Roberts	ELD					
ACRS		Air Rights	_____	INPO		
SECY		SP		NSAC		
CA						
PDR	Regional Offices		_____			
				TMI Resident Section	<u>11:20</u>	
				RI Resident Office	<u>Vermont Yankee - 1:05</u>	
				Licensee:	_____	
				(Reactor Licensees)		