

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-90-64

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:
Yankee Atomic Electric Company
Yankee Nuclear Power Station
Docket No.: 50-29
PWR/ Westinghouse 4 Loop

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

SUBJECT: INADEQUATE DIESEL GENERATOR CAPACITY AND EXTENSION OF OUTAGE TO ALLOW REPLACEMENT

At 5:00 p.m. on August 10, with the plant in cold shutdown (Mode 5), Yankee Atomic questioned the operability of all three Emergency Diesel Generators (EDGs) due to inadequate post-maintenance testing. The testing conducted was inadequate in demonstrating the full load capability (400 KW) of the EDGs in that actual post-maintenance testing was performed at 200 KW. A subsequent full load surveillance test at 400 KW on August 11 determined that EDG-1 was operable. However, EDGs-2 and 3 were not able to produce the full load of 400 KW. The actual electrical capacity demonstrated by EDG-2 and EDG-3 was 380 KW and 385 KW, respectively. Although EDG-2 and EDG-3 are inoperable, they remain aligned to provide plant emergency loads. EDG-1 is removed from service for modification to extend its capability above 400 KW. Yankee Atomic informed the NRC Operations Center at 2:45 a.m. on August 11 per 10 CFR 50.72(9)(2)(iii) following failure of EDG-2 to meet the 400 KW testing requirement.

A subsequent Yankee Atomic engineering review of emergency loads identified significant deficiencies in EDG capacity to support the emergency loads for a spectrum of LOCA break sizes. Yankee Atomic informed the NRC Operations Center of this finding via the ENS system at 8:25 p.m. on August 12. The resident inspector was present in the control room at the time of the call.

Yankee Atomic plans replacement of all three EDGs to be completed during the current outage. The new EDGs will have a capacity of 600 KW. Yankee Atomic is chartering an independent team to oversee implementation of the modification and evaluate the root cause of the electrical loading design and analyses inadequacies and post-maintenance testing deficiencies. The current refueling outage, which was scheduled to end on August 17, has been extended four weeks to complete the EDG replacements.

This information is current as of 4:00 p.m. on August 13.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has been informed.

The resident inspectors are on site following Yankee Atomic's actions on this issue.

CONTACT: John Rogge
(FTS) 346-5146

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