

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PN1-9417

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 Rowe  
Rowe Massachusetts

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

Docket No.: 50-029  
License No.: NONE  
Event No.: NONE  
Event Location Code: POW

Subject: GUARD FORCE STRIKE

Local Number 15 of the United Government Security Officers of America voted to reject a collective bargaining agreement, and began a strike at the Yankee Nuclear Power Station at 11 pm on March 9, 1994. A picket line was established at the main plant access road for a short time last evening, and was re-established at 6 am on March 10th. The strikers have not attempted to impede access to the plant. The negotiations between the security contractor at Yankee, Burns International Security Services, and its employees' union have been ongoing since December 1993 when the contract expired.

Yankee has been permanently shut down and defueled since February 1992, and has operated under a Possession Only License since August 5, 1992. A Defueled Security Plan was implemented on December 19, 1992. Site staffing consists of approximately 56 licensee employees and 30-40 contractors. Activities currently involve cutting reactor vessel in-core components (underwater) and shipment under a Component Removal Program. The cutting work is approximately 70% complete, and the eleventh of 26 planned cask shipments was recently completed. These radwaste shipments leave the site at an access location different from the main road.

The licensee established contingency measures that include provision of qualified replacements for the required security force members from the Burns organization. NRC Resident Inspectors from the Vermont Yankee site have been onsite at Yankee since 4:30 pm on March 9th, and have verified appropriate qualifications and proper implementation of the Defueled Security Plan. Walkdowns of vital plant equipment were performed by both the licensee and, independently, the NRC inspectors. Other license requirements such as for fire protection, control room staffing and emergency preparedness were similarly confirmed. NRC Security Specialists and Region I management are in contact with licensee representatives, and continue to monitor site activities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the State of Vermont were informed. The Region I Office of Public Affairs is prepared to respond to media inquires.

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PND-I-94-017 PDR

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\*\* General list for sending PNs by FAX