

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PN1-9364

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: SHIPMENT OF STEAM GENERATORS

On November 16 and 17, Yankee Atomic Electric Company (YAEC) plans to ship two of four steam generators (SGs) from Yankee Rowe to the radioactive waste depository at Barnwell, SC. The first phase of this shipment involves the 6-mile vehicular transfer of the SGs from Yankee Rowe to the Hoosic Tunnel. A transportation dry-run was successfully performed on November 8 using a 56-wheeled transporter carrying an equivalent design load. The Lockwood Brothers Co. is contracted to perform the transportation and heavy lift operations, and the Massachusetts State Police will escort the shipment during this first phase. At the tunnel, the SGs will be lifted onto an awaiting rail car and prepared for the second phase, dedicated 72-hour rail shipment to Barnwell, planned for the afternoon of November 17. The remaining two SGs will be similarly shipped on December 7 and 8. The pressurizer will be transported by truck to Barnwell at a later date.

Yankee Atomic Electric Company expects media coverage and a public demonstration by the Citizens Awareness Network (CAN) and the Greenpeace organization. Recently, the CAN had organized two nonviolent demonstrations in Greenfield, MA, and North Adams, MA; each was attended by approximately 50 people. Security contingency plans have been established while the first SG is temporarily stored overnight at the Hoosic Tunnel, between the first and second phases of transportation. The Massachusetts Department of Health performed a site radiation survey of the SGs and reported no significant concerns. The licensee will evaluate the weather conditions on the morning of the transportation. NRC radiation protection and transportation specialists will observe both shipments.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the States of New Hampshire and Vermont were informed. YAEC has issued a press release. The NRC Region I Office of Public Affairs is prepared to respond to media inquiries.

CONTACT: Eugene Kelly
(215) 337-5183

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