

DCS No: 50286901004
Date: October 5, 1990

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-90-88

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:
Indian Point Unit 3
New York Power Authority
Docket No. 50-286

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

Subject: TWO FUEL ASSEMBLIES INADVERTENTLY LIFTED FROM CORE

At approximately 4 p.m. on October 4, 1990, NYPA discovered that two fuel assemblies had been inadvertently lifted from the core while lifting the upper core internals, part of the preparations for refueling the reactor. The lifting was stopped when the two fuel assemblies suspended from the bottom of the upper core internals were identified. NYPA determined that there is approximately 4 feet of clearance between the bottom of the two fuel assemblies and the top of the core.

NYPA suspended all refueling and other work within the containment and precautionarily evacuated all personnel from containment. NYPA disabled the refueling crane to prevent inadvertent core internals and fuel movement. NRC Region I was informed shortly after the event, and an ENS call to the NRC Operations Center was made within one hour. NYPA initiated tours of containment every 4 hours to inspect the condition of safety equipment. Area radiation levels were verified to be normal.

Region I response has included sending a branch chief, three health physics personnel, and three operational personnel to the site. The NRC site coverage was expanded to 24 hour coverage with at least one health physics person and one operational person per shift. NYPA management has agreed to obtain NRC approval prior to any actions to move the fuel and to inform NRC of recovery plans prior to implementing them. A CAL will be issued October 5 documenting the agreement.

NYPA issued a press release on the evening of October 4. The State of New York has been notified. Region I has responded to media inquiries.

This PN is current as of 10:00 a.m., October 5, 1990.

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(Reactor Licensees)

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