

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-90-105

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:	Licensee Emergency Classification:
Maine Yankee	___ Notification of Unusual Event
Docket No. 50-309	___ Alert
Wiscasset, Maine	___ Site Area Emergency
	___ General Emergency
	<u>X</u> Not Applicable

Subject: UNPLANNED SHUTDOWN FOR GREATER THAN 72 HOURS

On December 17, 1990 at 3:40 p.m., operators began to decrease reactor power when the calculated primary to secondary leak rate (based on air ejector activity) in steam generator SG-1 increased from 0.004 gpm to 0.01 gpm. Primary to secondary leakage, which had existed in SG-1 since August 1990, had previously increased from 0.0003 gpm to 0.004 gpm during the week of December 9, 1990. At 4:50 a.m. on December 17, the leak rate again increased, to 1.0 gpm, exceeding the 0.15 gpm Technical Specification limit for a single steam generator, and operators accelerated the shut down rate. The reactor was shut down by 7:00 a.m. Gaseous releases remained within Technical Specification limits.

At 5:00 p.m., December 18, the RCS was at 200 psig and 160 F. SG-1 was cooled down, isolated and being drained for inspection. The licensee expects the plant to be shut down for at least 7 days for inspection and repairs.

The State of Maine has been notified of the unplanned shut down.

The Senior Resident Inspector is following licensee actions.

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12/18/90*