

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PN1-9413

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:

Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Co.
Haddam Neck Station
Haddam Neck, Connecticut

Licensee Emergency Classification:

Notification of Unusual Event
 Alert
 Site Area Emergency
 General Emergency
 Not Applicable

Docket No.: 50-213

License No.: DPR-61

Event No.: 26779

Event Location Code: POW

Subject: INOPERABLE SERVICE WATER SYSTEM - UNUSUAL EVENT

On February 12-13, 1994, the plant was in an Unusual Event while operators took the plant from full power to cold shutdown after identifying degraded piping in the service water supply to both emergency diesel generators (EDGs). With the plant operating at 100% full power on February 12, plant workers prepared two welds in the service water system for ultrasonic (UT) examination (see Region I Morning Report for February 4). The UT exam was planned to better characterize degradation caused by MIC corrosion in two welds in the service water supply piping to the emergency diesel generators. While grinding the crown of weld #22, the weld began to weep through a pin hole sized defect. The leaky weld was on the upstream side of the isolation valve for the A EDG supply header, was not isolable from the main SW header, and thus potentially affected the supply to the B EDG as well. Although the weld still had structural integrity and both supply lines to the diesels were functional, the licensee declared both service water system headers inoperable.

The loss of two service water headers exceeded the minimum requirements for the SW system specified in Technical Specification (TS) 3.7.3. The licensee entered the action statement for TS 3.0.3 at 9:50 a.m. and began a controlled shutdown. An Unusual Event emergency was declared due to a shutdown required by the TS, which required that the plant be placed in Mode 5 (cold shutdown) within 36 hours. The reactor entered Mode 3 (reactor subcritical) at 3:23 p.m. on February 12, and Mode 5 at 6:10 p.m. on February 13. The unusual event was terminated.

The licensee plans to first repair the leaky weld and to complete nondestructive examinations of other welds and piping in the service water system to identify other MIC induced degradations. All known degraded SW welds will be repaired as needed prior to returning the plant to power operation. The licensee is also considering the replacement of the entire service water header to each EDG, including the underground piping. The plant outage is estimated to last from 7 to 35 days, depending on the amount of piping eventually replaced.

As of 8:00 a.m., on February 14, the reactor was in cold shutdown with the reactor coolant system at 180 degrees F. The north service water header was isolated in preparation to repair the defective weld in the supply line to the A EDG.

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The licensee issued a press release, and the State of Connecticut has been notified by the NRC. The licensee notified the NRC Duty Officer at 9:59 a.m. on February 12. Both resident inspectors responded to the plant and followed the shutdown through termination of the event.

CONTACT: W. Raymond (203) 267-2571 L. Doerflein (610) 337-5378 R. Blough (610) 337-5224

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