DESIGNATED ORIGINAL

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Certified By _____

Date: October 25, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-79-12

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff on this date.

Facility: Maine Yankee Nuclear Power Station
Wiscasset, Maine
Docket No. 50-309

Subject: LEAKING "O" RING ON SAFETY INJECTION TANK CHECK VALVE

The reactor plant was shut down at 9:30 this morning to repair a leak which developed on a hinge pin cap "O" Ring for the "soft seat" Safety Injection Tank (SIT) (accumulator) line. Minor leakage past the downstream "hard seat" check valve, and through this leak path to the containment sump was 1.1 gpm prior to shutdown and closing of the SIT isolation valve. The licensee is presently depressurizing the SIT by venting it to the containment in an attempt to stop leakage past the "O" Ring so that the hinge pin cap can then be seal welded. If this repair effort is successful, plant operation should resume tomorrow (10/27) afternoon. Purging of the containment is not planned. Venting will be necessary to keep containment pressure within limits as the SIT is vented.

Media interest is expected because of interest in nonroutine activities at nuclear power plants. The State of Maine has been informed. A press release is not planned by the licensee or NRC.

NRC, Region I, (Philadelphia) received notification of this occurrence by telephone from IE HQ Duty Officer at 8:00 a.m., October 26, 1979.

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