

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-84-53

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: Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. Licensee Emergency Classification:
Vermont Yankee Nuclear N.P.S. Notification of Unusual Event
Vernon, Vermont Alert
DN 50-271 Site Area Emergency
 General Emergency
 Not Applicable

Subject: UNSHIELDED TRAVERSING INCORE PROBE

During the performance of routine core flux mapping with the reactor at 92% full power on 6/15/84, the drive mechanism for Traversing Incore Probe (TIP) #1 malfunctioned and retracted the detector beyond the shielded position and into the drive housing at 9:05 a.m. Local radiation readings in the Northwest corner of the Reactor Building 252 ft. elevation increased to about 5 R/hr general area, with levels on contact with the drive housing reaching 100 R/hr. Plant operators declared an Alert at 9:18 a.m. in accordance with the emergency plan due to unexpected increases in radiation levels of greater than 1000 times normal.

The Reactor Building was evacuated and guards were posted to establish positive access controls. Personnel accountability procedures were completed at 9:49 a.m. The TLDs for nine people working in the general vicinity of the TIP drive housings were pulled for exposure readings. The pocket dosimeters for the workers showed no exposures in excess of 80 mRem for the morning work activity.

The licensee de-escalated from the Alert condition to a non-emergency status at 1:19 p.m. since the radiation source was known, decreasing and controlled. Access to the Reactor Building was permitted at 2:10 p.m. after a wood barricade was constructed for access control to the drive area and after completing confirmatory radiation surveys in areas adjacent to the TIP drives to establish the boundaries of the high radiation areas. The licensee plans to defer detector recovery activities for at least 24 hours to allow the gamma-tipped detectors to decay. There were no releases of radioactive material inside the plant or offsite.

This information is current as of 2:30 p.m. on June 15, 1984.

The State of Vermont has been informed. Notifications were made to appropriate states when the Alert was declared.

Both the licensee and NRC has had extensive media interest after the licensee made his "Alert" notifications, including the media.

NRC Region I received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the Resident Inspector at 9:25 a.m. on 6/15/84. The licensee made notifications to the NRC Duty Officer using commercial lines at 9:30 a.m. since the ENS line was out of service at the time.

CONTACT: Raymond Gallo Kister
(802)-257-4319 488-1234 488-1223

8406210071 840615
PDR I&E
PNO-1-84-053 PDR

TE34
01

DISTRIBUTION:

H. St. _____	MNBB _____	Phillips <u>4:30</u>	E/W _____	Willste _____	Mail: ADM:DMB
Chairman Palladino	EDO	NRR	IE	NMSS	DOT:Trans only
Comm. Gilinsky	PA		OIA	RES	
Comm. Bernthal	MPA		AEOD		
Comm. Roberts	ELD				
Comm. Asselstine					
ACRS		Air Rights	INPO----		
SECY		SP	NSAC----		
CA					
PDR		Regional Offices _____		TMI Resident Section <u>4:30</u>	
				RI Resident Office <u>4:45</u>	

Licensee: _____
 (Reactor Licensees)