

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station
Vernon, Vermont

Docket No. 50-271
License No. DPR-28
EA No. 84-___

On July 17-31, 1984, an inspection was conducted to review the circumstances associated with a violation of a technical specification limiting condition for operation involving a degradation of secondary containment integrity. The violation was reported to the NRC on July 17, 1984. During the inspection, a second violation was identified. The two violations are classified in the aggregate at Severity Level IV.

In accordance with the revised NRC Enforcement Policy (10 CFR 2, Appendix C), published in the Federal Register on March 8, 1984 (49 FR 8583), the violations are set forth below.

- A. Technical Specification limiting condition for operation 3.7.C.1.d requires that secondary containment integrity be maintained whenever irradiated fuel is being moved in the reactor building.

Contrary to the above, on July 17, 1984, from about 12 midnight until about 3:30 a.m., secondary containment integrity was not maintained while three irradiated fuel bundles were moved in the spent fuel pool within the Reactor Building. Secondary containment was degraded because of an opening in the reactor building created when plant workers opened the cooling water supply piping to the reactor building air conditioner (RBAC) - 1B during work under mechanical bypass request 84-14. The open service water piping provided a flow path from the refueling zone air space through the service water system return piping to the main condenser discharge block and thereafter to the circulating water outfall at the station discharge structure.

- B. Technical Specification 6.5.1 requires that written procedures and instructions governing nuclear safety be established, implemented and followed. Procedure AP 0025, Plant Equipment Control, Revision 4, written pursuant to the requirement, requires that a work party leader obtain permission from the shift supervisor to commence a work activity after he has described how he intends to perform an assigned task and has obtained concurrence as to whether system tags are required to perform the work.

Contrary to the above, on July 16, 1984, a plant worker began work under mechanical bypass request 84-14 to provide alternate cooling to RBAC-1B without permission from the shift supervisor and without obtaining system tags from operations personnel. The failure to establish a proper tagging boundary for mechanical bypass request 84-14 prior to opening the service water system resulted in the degradation of secondary containment integrity.

These two violations have been classified in the aggregate at Severity Level IV (Supplement I).

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Q PDR

Pursuant to the provisions of 10 CFR 2.201, Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation of Vernon, Vermont, is hereby required to submit to this office within thirty days of the date of the letter transmitting this Notice, a written statement of explanation in reply, including for each violation: (1) corrective steps which have been taken and the results achieved; (2) corrective steps that will be taken to avoid further violations; and (3) the date when corrective actions will be completed. Where good cause is shown, consideration will be given to extend your response time.