

Date: March 20, 2001

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-01-008

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 Corporation
Vermont Yankee
Vernon, Vermont 05301

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Docket No.: 05000271

License No.: DPR-28

SUBJECT SHUTDOWN DUE TO FAILED PROTECTION SYSTEM COMPONENT (#37850) -
MEDIA INTEREST

On March 19, 2001, at 12:32 p.m., Vermont Yankee experienced a reactor shutdown when a failed component within the reactor protection system caused the inadvertent insertion of all control rods during routine, periodic system testing. Specifically, the protection system design enables half of the system to be tested while the remaining half maintains the protection functions. However, a failed electrical component within one half of the system caused the control rods to insert when surveillance testing began on the other half of the system. The reactor responded as designed, including a shutdown signal for reactor pressure vessel level associated with the reactor's response to the control rods' insertion. The reactor is stable while evaluations of the shutdown and preparations for restart are under way.

Vermont Yankee issued a press release on the event on March 19 and notified the state authorities and the NRC resident inspectors.

This information has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 10:00 a.m. on March 20, 2001.

The NRC resident inspectors are on site monitoring the licensee's root cause evaluation and restart preparations.

Contact: Brian McDermott
 (802) 257-4319

Glenn Meyer
(610) 337-5211

DISTRIBUTIONS:

BY E-MAIL:

OWFN

Chairman Meserve

Comm. Diaz

Comm. McGaffigan Jr.

Comm. Merrifield

Comm. Dicus

OIP

OCA

OGC

EDO

OE

NRR

SECY

Regional Offices

TWFN

IRO

ACRS

NMSS

OIG

RES

LST

PDR

BY FAX:

DOT:Trans

INPO

NSAC

RI Resident Office

Licensee: Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation

DOCUMENT NAME: C:\PN101008.wpd

OFFICE	RI/DRP	RI/DRP	RI/ORA	RI/DRP	
NAME	RBarkley /RSB/	GMeyer /GWM/	DScrenci /DPS/	RCrlenjak /RVC/	
DATE	03/ 20 /01	03/ 20 /01	03/ 20 /01	03/ 20 /01	