

DCS No.: 05000029/72-31040414  
Date: April 14, 2004

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE  
PNO-I-04-010

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**

Yankee Atomic Electric Company  
Yankee Rowe Plant  
Rowe, Massachusetts

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

Docket No.: 05000029 and 72-31  
License No.: DPR-03

**SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF UNUSUAL EVENT**

On April 14, 2004, at 12:25 p.m., Yankee Atomic Electric Company (YAEC) made a Notification of Unusual Event (NOUE) due to a fire in containment lasting longer than 30 minutes at the Yankee Rowe plant in Rowe, MA. The fire was reported to the control room at 11:55 a.m. and was caused by hot slag igniting plastic inside the containment building (Vapor Container). The slag originated from torch-cutting of a top section of the spherical Vapor Container (VC). The VC is being dismantled in accordance with the approved Decommissioning Plan. The VC was evacuated. No injuries were reported. Air samples are being evaluated but no offsite release of radioactive material is expected. The onsite fire brigade responded and extinguished the fire at 1:05 p.m. The licensee exited the NOUE at 2:08 p.m. The licensee plans to issue a press release describing the event. This event had no effect on the safe storage of spent fuel at the licensee's onsite Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation.

The States of Massachusetts and Vermont were notified by the licensee in accordance with their Emergency Plan. Region I Public Affairs Office is prepared to address media inquiries.

**Regional Action:**

A follow-up inspection of the licensee's activities will be conducted.

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