

Burles

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Date: February 19, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-80-30

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 Atomic Power Company
Maine Yankee (DN 50-309)
Wiscasset, Maine

Subject: TILTED SPENT FUEL ASSEMBLY

While refueling the core on February 18, 1980, with poor pool clarity and with approximately one-third (1/3) the core in place, the licensee experienced problems in seating an assembly. Expecting the last assembly placed in the core had not properly engaged the lower core support pins, the licensee attempted to grasp the last assembly and it tilted over and came to rest at 50 degrees from the horizontal against the core barrel. No increased activity was detected, but the containment was temporarily evacuated as a precautionary measure.

Adjacent fuel assemblies have now been removed and two other improperly seated assemblies have been corrected. The licensee plans to right the tilted assembly using the auxiliary hook on the polar crane. The fuel assembly will then be inspected and reconstituted.

Media interest is possible because of sensitivity to nuclear power issues. 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 the plant Superintendent at 8:40 a.m. on February 18, 1980.

Contact: T. Martin (488-1255)
Prepared by EXT

E. J. Brunner (488-1240)
Branch Chief EXT

DISTRIBUTION: (Facsimile Transmission Times Noted)

H ST BLDG
Chairman Ahearne
Commissioner Kennedy
Commissioner Gilinsky
Commissioner Bradford
Commissioner Hendrie
ACRS
S. J. Chilk, SECY
C. C. Kammerer, CA
(For Distribution)

PHILLIPS BLDG
H. R. Denton, NRR
R. C. DeYoung, NRR
R. J. Mattson, NRR
D. Vassallo, NRR
D. Eisenhut, NRR

MARYLAND NATIONAL
BANK BUILDING
W. J. Dircks, EDO
C. Michelson, AEOD
J. J. Fouchard, PA
N. M. Haller, MPA
R. G. Ryan, OSP
H. K. Shapar, ELD

WILLSTE BLDG
J. G. Davis, RMSS
S. Levin, RES

LANDOW BLDG (Fax by HQ)
(6 MIN/PAGE)
J. J. Cummings, OIA

IE:XOOS
NRC/TMI Technical
Support Office

Region II
Region III
Region IV
Region V

RI Resident Sites

(MAIL)
R. Minogue, SD
IE:XOOS