

Date: December 16, 1996

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PN1-96-086A

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:  
Maine Yankee Atomic Power Co.  
Wiscasset, Maine

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

Docket No.: 050-309  
Event Location Code: POW

SUBJECT: MAINE YANKEE TO REMAIN SHUTDOWN DUE TO CABLE SEPARATION DEFICIENCIES  
(Update, PNI 96-086)

On December 5, 1996, Maine Yankee personnel identified inadequate cable separation issues affecting the reactor protection system. A reactor shutdown was initiated and the reactor was in Hot Shutdown condition (subcritical) early on December 6, 1996. The affected cables were repaired. During the course of the work to resolve the identified discrepancies, additional problems were identified. The Licensee expanded its review to determine the extent of the condition of cable separation problems in the plant. Some of the problems that have been identified so far include:

Inadequate separation of 125 volt DC control power cables to four of eight Reactor Trip Breakers.

Inadequate separation of cables to all four Manual Reactor Trip Push Buttons in the Control Room.

Inadequate separation of Control, Power and Instrument cables for the Containment Hydrogen Analyzer System.

Inadequate separation of cables for the Steam Generator Blowdown System Trip Valves.

Inadequate separation of control cables for an Auxiliary Steam System High Energy Line Break (HELB) valve.

Inadequate testing of station power supply breaker auxiliary contacts in Emergency Diesel Generator, EDG-1A and EDG-1B circuits.

Inadequate testing of the Reactor Trip Breakers Undervoltage and Shunt Trip Coils.

The licensee is now in the process of developing the scope for an expanded review and the process for field verification that will be accomplished prior to plant restart. The licensee estimates that the plant will be shutdown for an additional two weeks.

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On December 9, 1996, Region I issued a Preliminary Notification (PNI-96-086) to address the plant shutdown due to the Manual Reactor Push Buttons being inoperable because of inadequate cable separation.

On December 6 and 10, 1996, conference calls were held between the NRC and Maine Yankee during which the licensee discussed their initial plans to review and correct all the discrepancies prior to plant restart.

The Licensee issued a press release. NRC Region I notified the State of Maine.

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\*\* General list for sending PNs by FAX

Region I Form 83  
(Rev. August 1996)