

# Maine Yankee

RELIABLE ELECTRICITY SINCE 1972

329 BATH ROAD • BRUNSWICK, MAINE 04011 • (207) 798-4100

November 26, 1996

MN-96-177

JRH-96-268

## UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Attention: Document Control Desk

Washington, D. C. 20555

Reference: (a) License No. DPR-36 ( Docket No. 50-309 )

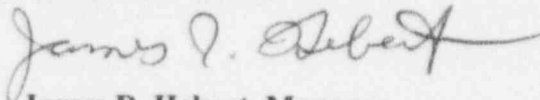
Subject: Maine Yankee Licensee Event Report 96-036, Entry into 3.0.A When Exhaust Fan (FN-44) Shut Down

Gentlemen:

Please find enclosed Maine Yankee Licensee Event Report 96-036 . This report is submitted in accordance with 10 CFR 50.73(a)(2)(i).

Please contact us should you have any questions regarding this matter.

Very truly yours,



James R. Hebert, Manager

Licensing & Engineering Support Department

mwf

Enclosure

c: Mr. Hubert Miller  
Mr. J. T. Yerokun  
Mr. D. H. Dorman  
Mr. Patrick J. Dostie  
Mr. Uldis Vanags

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## LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)

(See reverse for required number of  
digits/characters for each block)ESTIMATED BURDEN PER RESPONSE TO COMPLY WITH THIS MANDATORY  
INFORMATION COLLECTION REQUEST: 50.0 HRS. REPORTED LESSONS LEARNED ARE  
INCORPORATED INTO THE LICENSING PROCESS AND FED BACK TO INDUSTRY. FORWARD  
COMMENTS REGARDING BURDEN ESTIMATE TO THE INFORMATION AND RECORDS  
MANAGEMENT BRANCH (T-6 F33), U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION,  
WASHINGTON, DC 20555-0001, AND TO THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION PROJECT (3150-  
0104), OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, WASHINGTON, DC 20503.

FACILITY NAME (1)

Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company

DOCKET NUMBER (2)

50-309

PAGE (3)

1 OF 3

TITLE (4)

Entry into 3.0.A when exhaust fan( FN-44) shut down

EVENT DATE (5)			LER NUMBER (6)			REPORT DATE (7)			OTHER FACILITIES INVOLVED (8)	
MONTH	DAY	YEAR	YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER	MONTH	DAY	YEAR	FACILITY NAME	DOCKET NUMBER
10	31	96	96	-- 036	-- 00	11	26	96	FACILITY NAME	DOCKET NUMBER
OPERATING MODE (9)		7	THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR §: (Check one or more) (11)							
POWER LEVEL (10)		90	20.2201(b)		20.2203(a)(2)(v)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		50.73(a)(2)(i)	50.73(a)(2)(viii)
			20.2203(a)(1)		20.2203(a)(3)(i)				50.73(a)(2)(ii)	50.73(a)(2)(x)
			20.2203(a)(2)(i)		20.2203(a)(3)(ii)				50.73(a)(2)(iii)	73.71
			20.2203(a)(2)(ii)		20.2203(a)(4)				50.73(a)(2)(iv)	OTHER
			20.2203(a)(2)(iii)		50.36(c)(1)				50.73(a)(2)(v)	Specify in Abstract below or in NRC Form 366A
			20.2203(a)(2)(iv)		50.36(c)(2)				50.73(a)(2)(vii)	

## LICENSEE CONTACT FOR THIS LER (12)

NAME

Larry Grimard, Senior Shift Technical Advisor

TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code)

(207)882-6321

## COMPLETE ONE LINE FOR EACH COMPONENT FAILURE DESCRIBED IN THIS REPORT (13)

CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANUFACTURER	REPORTABLE TO NPRDS	CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANUFACTURER	REPORTABLE TO NPRDS

## SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT EXPECTED (14)

YES

(If yes, complete EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE).

X

NO

EXPECTED  
SUBMISSION  
DATE (15)

MONTH

DAY

YEAR

ABSTRACT (Limit to 1400 spaces, i.e., approximately 15 single-spaced typewritten lines) (16)

On 10/31/96 Maine Yankee was operating at 90% steady state power.

The exhaust ventilation fans for the space occupied by the Low Pressure Safety Injection Pumps and Containment Spray Pumps (Spray Building) were shut off to bypass the in-line filter assembly. The fans were returned to service within 5 minutes.

Shutting the ventilation fans off renders the ECCS equipment located in the Spray Building inoperable per Technical Specifications. This equipment consists of Low Pressure Safety Injection Pumps and Containment Spray Pumps. Since both trains became inoperable, this event placed the plant in a condition prohibited by Technical Specifications, and Technical Specification 3.0.A.2 was entered for the time period the fans were off. The duration of the out of service condition was so short that a power reduction (required within one hour) was not started.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)  
TEXT CONTINUATION

FACILITY NAME (1)	DOCKET	LER NUMBER (6)			PAGE (3)
		YEAR	SEQUENTIAL	REVISION	
Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company	50-309	96	-- 036	-- 00	2 OF 3

TEXT (If more space is required, use additional copies of NRC Form 366A) (17)

## INITIAL PLANT CONDITIONS:

On 10/31/96 Maine Yankee was operating at 90% power.

## EVENT DESCRIPTION:

Background: The Spray Building contains both trains of Low Pressure Safety Injection pumps and Containment Spray Pumps - both of which rely on the exhaust fans (FAN) to provide ventilation when operating in the Emergency Core Cooling Mode. Two exhaust fans are provided with one normally in operation, and one in standby. The pumps are considered inoperable if the exhaust fans are not operable. The process of bypassing the filter assembly associated with these fans renders the fans not operable for a brief period of time. Since both trains are affected by this action, the plant entered Tech Spec 3.0.A.2, and commenced the LER reporting process.

In order to protect the filter internals from paint fumes, it is customary to bypass the filter assemblies of ventilation systems when painting is taking place in the ventilated space. A crew of painters was at work in the Spray Building during the period of interest.

## Event:

Since painting activities were planned for the Spray Building, the fans were stopped in order to allow the filters to be aligned in the bypass mode using procedure 1-12-3 (Control Area Ventilation). The fans were stopped twice; once to align the filters in the bypass mode, and once to return the filters to the in-line position. In both instances the fans were off for less than 5 minutes.

31 Oct. 1615 - fan stopped  
31 Oct. 1620 - fan restarted

1Nov. 0145 - fan stopped  
1Nov. 0149 - fan started

## SAFETY SIGNIFICANCE:

The safety significance is minimal for this event based on the short duration of unavailability and the continuous presence of an operator capable of returning the fans to service.

## CAUSAL FACTORS:

The procedural guidance for bypassing the Spray Building Exhaust Filter contains a note alerting operations personnell that inoperable exhaust fans "affects T.S. 3.6 (Emergency Core Cooling and Containment Spray Systems) Remedial Action". The note does not specifically state that both trains of Low Pressure Safety Injection and Containment Spray will be rendered inoperable and entry into Tech Spec 3.0.A.2 is required.

## CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

Painting activities in the Spray Building have been stopped.  
The procedure for changing the exhaust fans had been modified to prevent entering Tech Spec 3.0.A.2 as a corrective action from a previous LER (94-009-00). That event occurred as a result of stopping the fans to enable the fans to be swapped.

**LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)**  
**TEXT CONTINUATION**

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		96	-- 036	-- 00	

TEXT (If more space is required, use additional copies of NRC Form 366A) (17)

The procedure section for bypassing the Exhaust Filters (section 5.12) continues to require entry into Tech Spec 3.0.A.2 because the bypass dampers are not designed to be manipulated with the fans in operation.

The Licensing Section is working to provide an administrative solution which will avoid LER reporting when the exhaust fans are stopped for the purpose of bypassing the filters.

**SIMILAR EVENTS:**

Similar events have been reported in LER 93-010, and LER 94-009.