

DCS No.: 05000029040302

Date: March 2, 2004

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-04-009

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
49 Yankee Road
Rowe, MA 01367

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event

Alert

Site Area Emergency

General Emergency

Not Applicable

Docket No.: 50-29

License No.: DRP-3

SUBJECT: SPILL OF LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE FROM PACKAGE WHILE IN TRANSIT

On March 2, 2004, the Yankee Atomic Electric Company informed NRC Region I that a package of low-level radioactive waste slipped off a flatbed truck around 12:30 PM today, within three miles of the Yankee Rowe facility on Ford Hill Road. The licensee reported that a welded clamp used to secure a chain around the package broke, and the package fell off the truck on a steep incline. The intermodal package was manifested as containing 1.25 milliCuries of Cobalt-60 and Cesium137/134 distributed over 46,750 pounds of crushed concrete. About 80% of the package contents spilled into a roadside ditch. There were no injuries or damage to the truck.

The licensee has suspended all transportation activities until the concrete is re-packaged into another inter-modal, and the cause of the failure of the tie-down is evaluated. The licensee, Commonwealth of Massachusetts State Police, and the local Fire and Police departments responded to the scene. The licensee has made the required four-hour notification to NRC, because of the licensee's plan to issue a press release and attendant public interest.

The EPA, Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the State of Vermont were notified by the licensee. Region I has been in contact with both states, is following the event, and is prepared to respond to media inquiries.

This information is current as of 4:15 p.m. on March 2, 2004.

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Licensee: Gerry van Noordennen
(Reactor Licensees)

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