

Memorandum

Vermont Department of Public Service

March 27, 2013

To: Vermont State Nuclear Advisory Panel

From: Uldis Vanags, State Nuclear Engineer

Subject: Vermont Yankee Notification to NRC on Degraded Flood Seal

Vermont Yankee made an 8 hour notification to the NRC per 10 CFR50.72(b)(3)(v) on March 23, 2013 when it was identified that a conduit flood seal between an outside manhole and the switchgear rooms was displaced. The notification was required because the degraded flood seal compromised the flooding design of both the east and west switchgear rooms.

The identification of the degraded seal occurred when performing work on installation of a new Auxiliary Transformer where a worker noticed water entering into a manhole in the switchgear room. Upon inspection it was determined that the water in the switchgear room manhole was caused by river water ponding in the vicinity of an outdoor manhole as a result of river dredging. After workers diverted the water away from the outdoor manhole, it was discovered that a displaced conduit pipe seal allowed water to flow from the outside manhole into the switchgear room manhole. The initially identified degraded mechanical pump seal was replaced with a foam seal, and other mechanical seals associated with the switchgear room are planned for replacement.

The water in the switchgear room manhole did not exceed 2 feet, and if necessary, portable pumps are available onsite at all times. There were no impacts to the electrical equipment. Vermont Yankee is required to submit a Licensee Event Report to the NRC within 60 days of identifying the degraded flood seal. Vermont Yankee has entered this event into their corrective action program and is conducting a cause investigation.