

February 9, 2005

Mr. Michael J. Meisner
Chief Nuclear Officer
Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company
321 Old Ferry Road
Wiscasset, Maine 04578-4922

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO AREA CLASSIFICATION CHANGE: STORM DRAINS (D3500)

Dear Mr. Meisner:

This letter responds to Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company (Maine Yankee) letter MN-05-003, dated January 26, 2005, regarding "Area Classification Change: Storm Drains (D3500) - Section 7." In its letter, Maine Yankee notifies NRC of its intention to change the classification of a portion of storm drain piping section 7 from Class 1 to Class 3.

The staff has reviewed the basis for the area classification change, and has the following comments which need to be addressed by Maine Yankee.

1. Based on industry experience, water effluent samples may not be a good indicator of residual radioactivity in a system, especially a passive system such as a storm drain or effluent piping. The staff recognizes the principal water source for the storm drain has been the fire protection system and radiological contamination is unlikely. However, consistent with good practice, it is prudent to radiologically characterize such areas by obtaining sediment samples, loose surface and /or direct measurements. Therefore, the request to re-classify this section of storm drain from Class 1 to Class 3 area should be based on characterization data gathered by characterization surveys since personnel access to the storm drain is achievable.
2. In addition, please clarify how the storm drain areas will be segregated and controlled with respect to separation of the Class 1 and Class 3 areas.

If you have any questions regarding this letter please contact John Buckley at 301-415-6607.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Daniel M. Gillen, Deputy Director
Decommissioning Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 50-309
License No.: DPR-36

cc: Maine Yankee distribution list

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