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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

DEC 06 1979

Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Company
ATTN: Mr. D. Switzer
President
P. O. Box 270
Hartford, Connecticut 06101

Gentlemen:

The apparent items of noncompliance identified during our inspection conducted on February 14-16, 26-28, and March 5-9, 1979, of the radiation protection program at the Haddam Neck Nuclear Power Station listed in Appendix A to this letter demonstrate a breakdown in management and procedural controls in the area of radiological health and safety to the point that your radiation protection program was inadequate. As indicated in Appendix B, we intend to impose a civil penalty of \$27,500 for these items of noncompliance.

In our view the items of noncompliance in Appendix A demonstrate a lack of effective radiation safety controls which we believe to be the result of the following:

1. Failure to recognize the significance of the radiological impact accompanying suspected fuel clad degradation; consequently, failure to plan and prepare accordingly;
2. Failure to provide sufficient leadership and direction in the implementation of the radiation protection program during the 1979 refueling outage;
3. Failure to establish, maintain and implement procedures sufficient to provide guidance and direction in the performance of radiation protection activities; and
4. Failure to provide sufficient corporate assistance to the station's radiation protection program in the area of management and technical support in a timely manner.

In the Management Meeting of March 16, 1979, we expressed our concern with the performance of your radiation protection program during the 1979 refueling outage; and acknowledged your intent to implement corrective actions.

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

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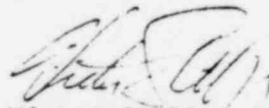
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While your enforcement history for the past 3-year period does not suggest chronic and repetitive problems in the area of radiation safety, we are concerned that this latest observed deterioration in your program is indicative of management inattention and that the existing inadequate controls, resulting in the numerous items of noncompliance may lead to more serious situations. Therefore, in your reply to this letter give particular attention to describing those actions you have taken or plan to take to improve your control of the radiation safety program and to prevent further noncompliance. We are particularly interested in your planned improvements in the areas of staffing and organization (station and corporate), procedure development, personnel training, and outage preparations.

In proposing to impose a civil penalty at this time, careful consideration has been given to the fact that the inspection occurred nearly eight months ago, and to the prompt and extensive corrective actions which you have taken, well in advance of this letter. In this regard, however, timely and adequate corrective action is always required and there was a demonstrated lack of management attention to the radiation protection program at your facility prior to our inspection. A civil penalty appears to be the appropriate enforcement action at this time.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and the enclosures will be placed in the NRC's Public Document Room.

Sincerely,



Victor Stello, Jr.
Director
Office of Inspection
and Enforcement

Enclosures:

1. Appendix A, Notice of Violation
2. Appendix B, Notice of Proposed
Imposition of Civil Penalties

cc w/encls:

- R. Graves, Plant Superintendent
- D. G. Diedrick, Manager of Quality Assurance
- J. R. Himmelwright, Licensing Safeguards Engineer

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