



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I
631 PARK AVENUE
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406

June 22, 1979

Docket No. 50-29

Yankee Atomic Electric Company
ATTN: Mr. Robert H. Groce
Licensing Engineer
20 Turnpike Road
Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

Gentlemen:

In accordance with our plans as described in our May 22, 1979 letter to you, the first of two direct and dedicated telephone lines was recently installed in your facility. This line is part of what has been designated the Off Premise Extension (OPX) network, an automatic ringing system that is designed to facilitate immediate notifications to the NRC of significant incidents, and to provide continuous and uninterrupted communication of operational information between your facility, the NRC Operations Center in Bethesda, Maryland, and the Regional Office during the course of such incidents.

We have been testing the OPX network on a daily basis for the past several weeks, and plan to continue on this schedule until confidence in the reliability of the network has been established and all problems have been eliminated. After that we will continue the tests but at a reduced frequency. A copy of the test procedure is provided as an enclosure to this letter for your information.

The OPX network is not to be used for routine communications with the NRC. It shall be used only for those events requiring immediate notification as defined in 10 CFR 20.403(a), and in IE Bulletin Series Nos. 79-05, -06, and -08, which require notification within one hour of the time a reactor is not in a controlled or expected condition of operation. In addition, the network shall be used where it is apparent that immediate NRC attention is necessary. This may include some, but certainly not all, prompt notifications now required.

We are now arranging for the installation of the second direct and dedicated line into your facility. This line will be part of what has been designated the Selective Signaling System (SS-4) network, a dial-up system - not automatic ringing, which is intended to be used during an incident to provide continuous and uninterrupted communication between your facility, the NRC Operations Center, and the Regional Office regarding radiological and environmental matters. You will be contacted soon regarding the installation of this second line.

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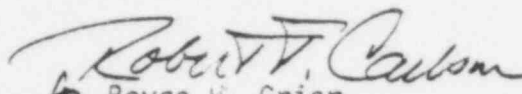
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If you have any questions concerning these communications networks or any comments regarding their use, please contact Mr. Robert Carlson of this office at (215) 337-5280.

Sincerely,


for Boyce H. Grier
Director

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encl:
H. Auto, Plant Superintendent
L. E. Minnick, President
J. Staub

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ENCLOSURE

TESTING OPX TELEPHONE NETWORK

Test Schedule

In order to minimize the impact on both NRC and licensees, tests will be conducted during specified time periods as follows:

Region I, IV, and V Licensees	10 PM to Midnight EST
Region II and III Licensees	5 AM to 7 AM EST

Frequency of the test will be daily until further notice.

Test Procedure

1. The Duty Officer at the NRC Operations Center calls the facility and identifies himself.
2. The party answering is requested to identify himself. The NRC Duty Officer then requests that the answering party hang up the telephone when the NRC Duty Officer hangs up.
3. The individual at the facility waits 10 seconds and then picks up the OPX telephone to initiate a signal at the NRC Operations Center.
4. When the NRC Duty Officer answers, the individual identifies the facility from which he is calling.
5. The NRC Duty Officer asks the caller to hold while a three party conference is established with the Regional Office Duty Officer.
6. Each party identifies himself and determines the quality of the connection.
7. The test is terminated.
8. Any necessary corrective action is initiated by the NRC Duty Officer.

NOTE: If, at any time a licensee has reason to believe his phone is inoperable, he should immediately notify the Duty Officer at the NRC Operations Center at (301) 492-8111.

Extension Check

Occasionally a check of each extension at the facility will also be made. This check will be scheduled in advance by the Duty Officer in the NRC Operations Center to be performed at a time acceptable to facility personnel.