NRC FORM 366

LER 79-18/OIT-O Yankee Atomic Electric Company Yankee Rowe 50-29

EVENT DESCRIPTION AND PROBABLE CONSEQUENCES:

The Yankee Atomic Electric Company was informed about a deviation in the fuel pin pressure from its specified value by the manufacturer, Exxon Nuclear, Inc. The nominal value of the pin pressure is 125 ± 5 psig, but a refined measurement of the archived pins showed a pressure of up to a maximum value of 143.1 psig. The increased pin pressure impacts the LOCA calculations in two ways:

- 1. The average fuel temperature at operating conditions may change, and
- 2. The swelling and rupture response during the accident may be altered.

An analysis of the impact of the error upon the predicted fuel temperature concluded that the resultant slight change would not have any adverse affect on the peak clad temperature. Based on the above, there is no potential adverse affect on the health and safety of the public as a result of this occurrence.

CAUSE DESCRIPTION AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

The root cause of this occurrence is attributed to manufacturing techniques. Upon notification, the impact of the error upon the predicted fuel temperature was addressed and the resultant slight change was analyzed. Exxon Nuclear, Inc. has changed their manufacturing methods employed during the pre-pressurization process at the fabrication facility to prevent re-occurrence.

No further actions are deemed necessary at this time.