



NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

April 10, 1979

OFFICE OF THE
COMMISSIONER

(Name & address deleted - Exemption 6)

Dear

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the Maine Yankee shut-down. I am sorry not to have answered it sooner, but the accident at Three Mile Island has taken precedence over everything. That accident, incidentally, would have been shown by both our probability calculations and those of the industry to be far less likely than the occurrence of a significant earthquake at one of the four plant sites in question. The earthquake probabilities were on the order of one every two hundred to four hundred years (which amounts to one every fifty to one hundred years at one of the four sites). The calculations for radioactive releases within the containment on the order of those experienced at Three Mile Island were that they would occur not more often than once per thousand years of reactor operation.

I hope that the first optimistic indications from the recalculations at Maine Yankee are borne out by the reviews now under way. If they are, I will do all that I can to get Maine Yankee back into operation quickly.

Sincerely,

Peter A. Bradford
Commissioner

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