



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

TERA

July 26, 1979

Docket No. 50-29

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

Dear Mr. Groce:

We have reviewed your response to our letter dated February 2, 1978, in regard to the potential for the reactor cavity annulus seal ring to become a destructive missile in the event of a loss-of-coolant accident pipe break inside the reactor cavity.

In your response, you indicated that in the event of a large coolant pipe rupture the subsequent ECCS analysis takes no credit for control rod insertion. Therefore, damage to the control rod drive mechanisms (CRDM) would not affect the safe shutdown of the reactor subsequent to a loss-of-coolant accident as previously analyzed. However, the role of CRDM for the safe shutdown of the reactor for small break LOCA has not been addressed. Moreover, you have not analyzed the effects of the seal ring, should it become a missile, on other safety related components located inside the containment. Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.54 (f) of the Commission's regulations, you are requested to (a) demonstrate by appropriate analysis that the seal ring cannot become a destructive missile during continued long-term operation and that it poses no threat to the health and safety of the public; or (b) furnish a statement that the seal ring will be removed by no later than the next refueling outage.

Please respond within 60 days of your receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,

*Dennis L. Ziemann*

Dennis L. Ziemann, Chief  
Operating Reactors Branch #2  
Division of Operating Reactors

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Mr. Robert H. Groce

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CC

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