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

May 15, 1979

Docket No. 57-29

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

Dear Mr. Groce:

Enclosed for your information is a copy of a letter sent to one of the licensees of a Westinghouse two loop plant. A similar letter has been sent to the licensees of the other Westinghouse two loop plants. Note that the use of the rod bank exchange program has not yet been approved for other than these two loop plants.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosure:
As Stated

cc: See next page

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Mr. Robert H. Groce

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May 15, 1979

cc
Mr. Lawrence E. Minnick, President
Yankee Atomic Electric Company
20 Turnpike Road
Westboro, Massachusetts 01581

Greenfield Community College
1 College Drive
Greenfield, Massachusetts 01301

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

May 15, 1979

Docket No. 50-305

Mr. Eugene R. Mathews, Vice President
Power Supply and Engineering
Wisconsin Public Service Corporation
P. O. Box 1200
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54305

Dear Mr. Mathews:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has reviewed information submitted by the Westinghouse Corporation and two licensees of two loop plants regarding the use of the rod bank exchange (rod swap) method to verify shutdown margin for two loop Westinghouse nuclear steam supply systems. Based on our review, we approve the use of this method as an alternative to the boron exchange method of verifying shutdown margin for these two loop NSSSs providing the following conditions are met:

1. The analysis for predicting rod worths and shutdown margin is performed by Westinghouse using the technique proposed to the NRC at the September 1978 meeting.
2. All rod banks are measured.
3. Written approval is obtained from the NRC prior to use of the rod exchange method. Approval will be based on NRC review of your review and acceptance criteria for these rod exchange tests. Once we approve your review and acceptance criteria, they need not be resubmitted unless changed.
4. The test procedure for this method is that identified in a Westinghouse letter to NRC dated April 24, 1979.

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Mr. Eugene R. Mathews

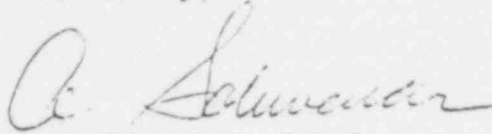
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5. Within 45 days after the first verification of shutdown margin using the rod bank exchange method, the test data is formally submitted to the NRC.

This approval is only for plants with a two loop NSSS. Additional information and further review will be required before we can reach a conclusion on the use of this method for three and four loop plants.

Sincerely,



A. Schwencer, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #1
Division of Operating Reactors

cc: See next page

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