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

MAY 30 1979

Docket No. 50-271

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

Dear Mr. Groce:

By letter dated March 2, 1979, you requested an exemption from the Type A test frequency as required by Section III.A.6(b) of 10 CFR 50, Appendix J. Section III.A.6(b) requires that if two consecutive periodic Type A tests fail, a Type A test shall be performed at each refueling outage or approximately every 18 months until two consecutive tests meet the acceptance criteria.

The occurrence of two successive failures indicates a need somewhat greater than normal that the next Type A test be performed during the 1979 Refueling Outage. This will provide a current demonstration of containment integrity which the regulations require. While it is true that an acceptable corrective action plan plays an essential role of assuring continuous containment integrity, a subsequent Type A test would be necessary to verify the completeness of the corrective action plan.

For the reasons discussed above, we deny your requested exemption from performing a Type A test during the 1979 Refueling Outage. Members of the NRC staff discussed these considerations with members of your staff by telephone on April 18, 1979.

Sincerely,

Brian Grimes

Brian K. Grimes, Assistant Director
for Engineering and Projects
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