

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
before the
ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD



In the Matter of)
MAINE YANKEE ATOMIC POWER COMPANY)
(Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station))

Docket No. 50-309
(Spent Fuel Pool
Compaction)

LICENSEE'S STATUS REPORT

By an order issued July 14, 1980, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (the Board), inter alia, directed the licensee:

"to provide a report to be in the hands of the Board and the parties by October 1, 1980, specifying the alternate or supplemental proposals, if any, which it is at that time still considering and, if it has not done so by the time of the report, when those alternates or supplements will be formerly proposed."

The licensee has determined that it is desirable to seek approval for spent fuel storage provisions which allow more spent fuel to be stored in the existing spent fuel pool than was contemplated under proposed change 70.

The principal means by which spent fuel storage capability, beyond that described in proposed change 70 is to be expanded is by employment of poisoned storage racks with closer assembly

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spacing than those currently installed and in use in the spent fuel pool. We propose to replace the existing racks in which fuel assemblies are stored on 12" centers with new racks in which fuel assemblies are to be stored on 10.5" centers. This reduced assembly spacing is reflective of currently employed spent fuel rack designs.

A supplemental proposed change (proposed change 70, supplement 1) will be filed within ten days which seeks approval to expand Maine Yankee's long-term spent fuel storage capacity by reracking with further densified racks intended to accept spent fuel assemblies in their "as discharged" form and in the form of spent fuel pin storage containers.

In addition, Maine Yankee has determined that due to the uncertainties in the projected schedule for approval and implementation of the pin storage and reracking concepts, it is prudent to prepare for the possibility that full core rejection capability will have to be provided beyond the point at which this capability is projected to be lost (1984 without approval and implementation of pin storage and/or reracking).

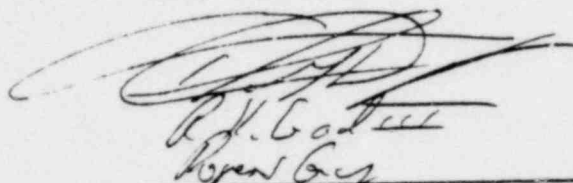
Therefore, a spent fuel rack which can be installed in the spent fuel cask laydown area, if and when needed, is proposed. This rack is designed to the same neutronic, thermal-hydraulic, and mechanical criteria utilized in the design of the permanent spent fuel racks described in proposed change 70, supplement 1.

The short-term storage rack will extend the period during which full core rejection capability persists, assuming pin

storage and/or reracking has not been accomplished, an additional two cycles, or from 1984 to 1986. It would only be fabricated and utilized if needed.

The supplemental proposed change (proposed change 70, supplement 1) thus seeks approval to create a short-term spent fuel storage capacity to accommodate full core rejection by making available as needed a freestanding spent fuel rack fitting into the spent fuel cask laydown area.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas G. Dignan, Jr.
R. K. Gad III
Ropes & Gray
Attorneys for Licensee

September 29, 1980

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Thomas G. Dignan, Jr., hereby certify that on September 29, 1980, I made service of the within document, by mailing a copy thereof, postage prepaid, to:

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Washington, D.C. 20555

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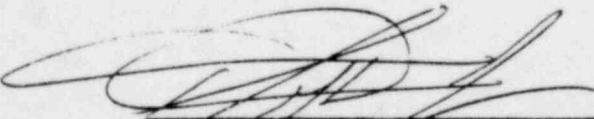
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Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
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