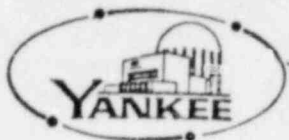


YANKEE ATOMIC ELECTRIC COMPANY



20 Turnpike Road Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

December 9, 1974

United States Atomic Energy Commission
Directorate of Regulatory Operations
Region I
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Attention: Radiological and Environmental Protection Branch

Reference: a) License No. DPR-3 (Docket No. 50-29)
b) USAEC letter dated November 15, 1974

Dear Sir:

This letter is written in response to your letter dated November 15, 1974 which indicates an activity that appears to be contrary to good safety practice. This item was reported as a result of RO Inspection No. 50-29/74-13 conducted on October 22-25, 1974 at the Yankee Facility in Rowe, Massachusetts.

Information submitted in reference to the activity appearing to be contrary to good safety practice is as follows:

Accepted radiological control practices dictate that every reasonable effort be made to conduct operations in a manner that would maintain the potential for inadvertent releases of radioactive material and exposure to personnel as low as practicable. This practice is supported in principle by 10 CFR 20.1, "Purpose."

Contrary to the above, the methods used to collect gas samples from the waste gas surge drum (decay tank) allow the possibility of inadvertent release and personnel exposure in that gas samples are taken into rubber balloons directly from the high pressure (50-60 psi) surge drum and also into an aluminum cylinder of unknown integrity.

Response

A modification to the waste gas surge drum sampling system incorporating a sample cylinder (1800 psig design pressure) and necessary tubing and valves has been completed. This

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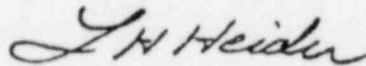
modification eliminates the use of rubber ballons thus reducing the possibility of an inadvertent release and personnel exposure.

The use of the described "aluminum cylinder of unknown integrity" will be continued since this equipment is in fact a 1000 cubic inch, 304 stainless steel cylinder with a design working pressure of 400 psig. This cylinder is capable of handling waste gas surge drum pressures of 50 - 60 psig.

We trust you find this information satisfactory; however, should you desire additional information please contact us.

Very truly yours,

YANKEE ATOMIC ELECTRIC COMPANY



L. H. Heider
Manager of Operations

NNS/kg