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Docket No. 50-29

Yankee Atomic Electric Company  
 ATTN: L. E. Minnick  
 Vice President  
 20 Turnpike Road  
 Westboro, Massachusetts 01581

Gentlemen:

Your letter dated February 16, 1973, submitted Yankee Atomic Electric Company's report on the "Evaluation of Possible Effects of Fuel Densification on Subsequent Operation of Yankee Cycle X". Our ongoing review of this report has established that the gap conductance analysis model that you have used is not acceptable. We have determined previously, in connection with the staff's review of the fuel densification evaluation for the Maine-Yankee Power Plant, that the basic gap conductance analysis model that you have used for the Yankee fuel densification evaluation contains some important assumptions that have not been adequately justified. This matter is discussed in a report for the Maine-Yankee Power Plant, Docket No. 50-279, prepared by the Directorate of Licensing entitled "Addendum to Safety Evaluation - Fuel Densification and Its Effects". For the reasons given in this report, the gap conductance value used in your Yankee fuel densification evaluation must be justified by the use of an appropriately modified or alternate gap conductance analysis model that can be accepted by the Regulatory staff.

We request that you advise us promptly on your plans to provide the needed additional information in order that we can assess the impact on our schedule for review of the Yankee densification evaluation.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Skovholt  
 Assistant Director for  
 Operating Reactors  
 Directorate of Licensing

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