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CONNECTICUT YANKEE ATOMIC POWER COMPANY

BERLIN, CONNECTICUT

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May 22, 1981

Docket No. 50-213  
810214

Mr. Boyce H. Grier, Director  
Region 1  
Office of Inspection and Enforcement  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
631 Park Avenue  
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406



Gentlemen:

Haddam Neck Plant  
Release of Contaminated Material

This is to inform you of the inadvertent release of material contaminated with low level radioactivity from the Haddam Neck site. Although there does not appear to be any obvious NRC reporting requirements, we are sending you this report for informational purposes within 30 days of the occurrence.

On April 22, 1981, at about 1700 hours, two moisture separator reheater tube bundles were released from the site to a metals waste processor. The bundles had fixed contamination consisting of Cobalt-60, Cesium-134 and Cesium-137. The total amount of radioactive material was determined to be 10.2 millicuries dispersed over 43,000 pounds of copper-nickel alloy material. This radioactivity consisted of greater than 95 percent Cesium-137 with trace amounts of other elements including Cesium-134 and Cobalt-60. The material was off site for approximately 18 hours and out of Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Company's (CYAPCO) control for approximately the first 2 1/2 hours of this period. During the time the material was off site, there was no spread of contamination or radiation exposure. These amounts of radioactivity are in excess of the exempt quantities in 10 CFR 30 Schedule B. The metal waste processor does not have a license to receive these materials.

When it was noted that the tube bundles had left the site, the metal processing company was notified and CYAPCO Health Physics personnel were dispatched to recover the material and provide radiation protection controls. The material was returned to the Connecticut Yankee site on the following morning. The Haddam Neck NRC Resident Inspector was advised of the situation and the staff was updated verbally as the incident developed.

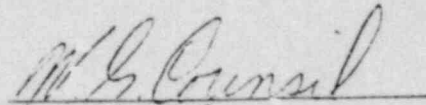
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Connecticut Yankee has revised its station procedures to include plant management review and any necessary health physics evaluation and authorization prior to release of all materials that could potentially contain or be contaminated with radioactive materials. Corrective action to minimize any recurrence of this nature was initiated immediately and completed on May 12, 1981.

Very truly yours,

CONNECTICUT YANKEE ATOMIC POWER COMPANY



W. G. Council  
Senior Vice President