UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the matter of,

YANKEE ATOMIC ELECTRIC COMPANY

(Yankee Nuclear Power Station)

Docket No. 50-029

EXEMPTION

1.

Yankee Atomic Electric Company (YAEC or the licensee) holds Facility
Operating License No. DPR-3 which authorizes the operation of the Yankee
Nuclear Power Station (Yankee or the facility) at steady-state power levels
not in excess of 600 megawatts thermal. This license provides, among other
things, that the facility is subject to all rules, regulations and Orders of
the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) now or hereafter in
effect.

The facility is a pressurized water reactor located at the licensee's site near Rowe, Massachusetts.

II.

The Code of Federal Regulations, in 55.59(c)(3)(4), "On the job training" requires that each licensed operator and senior operators of a utilization facility must perform certain manipulations annually. Additionally, 55.59(c)(3)(v) allows a simulator to be used in those manipulations.

By letter dated August 2, 1990, the Yankee Atomic Electric Company (the licensee) requested a one-time exemption from the requirement in 10 CFR 55.59(c)(3)(i)(A)-(L) to conduct annual simulator training of reactor

9010260212 901019 PDR ADOCK 05000029 PDC PDC operators and senior reactor operators on certain control manipulations. Simulator training of Yankee-Rowe licensed operators was last conducted on a non-plant specific simulator from September 1989 to October 1989. Yankee-Rowe anticipates having a plant specific simulator available for operator training on or about October 1, 1990. The required training would commence when the simulator is available, and the required training in control manipulations would be completed by March 1, 1991. The exemption from the requirements of the regulations would therefore be for a period of about five months.

Immediate compliance with the annual training requirement would entail all the licensed operators traveling to a non-plant specific simulator in Illinois and covering all twelve evolutions in a time span of 30 hours of simulator time for each crew. With the imminent arrival of the plant specific simulator, the licensee believes more effective and thorough training can be provided using the combination of control room based job performance measures, static simulator walkthroughs and, once it is available for training, the plant specific simulator.

Requiring the licensee's operators to travel to the non-plant specific simulator would result in the completion of the simulator training on time. However, since the quality of the training the operators would receive by performing the control manipulations on a plant specific simulator would be higher, it would be in the public interest to grant this exemption.

IV.

The Staff has reviewed the licensee's request for exemption and finds that since a plant specific simulator will be available on site in the very near future, requiring the licensee to meet the annual requirement to perform the control manipulations of 10 CFR 55.59(c)(3)(i)(A)-(L) on a non-plant specific simulator would not enhance the protection of the environment and would result in an expenditure of licensee resources not required for public health and safety.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR Part 50.12. this exemption is authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to the public health and safety, and is consistent with the common defense and security. The Commission has further determined that special circumstances, as set forth in 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(v), are present justifying the exemption. namely that application of the regulation in the particular circumstances is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 55.59(c)(3)(i)(A)-(L).

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the granting of this exemption will have no significant impact on the environment (55FR42523). This exemption is effective upon issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Projects - 1/11

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Dated at Rockville, Maryland October, 1990 IV.

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FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Steven A. Varga, Director Division of Reactor Projects - I/II Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

this 19 Lay of October 1990

*See Previous Conducrence

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