



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555-0001

February 2, 1994

Docket No. 50-309

Mr. Charles D. Frizzle, President
Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company
83 Edison Drive
Augusta, Maine 04336

Dear Mr. Frizzle:

SUBJECT: GENERIC LETTER 89-10, SUPPLEMENT 5, "INACCURACY OF MOTOR-OPERATED VALVE DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT" (TAC NO. M75679)

On January 28, 1993, the NRC staff issued Supplement 5, "Inaccuracy of Motor-Operated Valve Diagnostic Equipment," to Generic Letter (GL) 89-10, "Safety-Related Motor-Operated Valve Testing and Surveillance." Supplement 5 requests nuclear power plant licensees and construction permit holders to: (1) reexamine their (MOV) programs and to identify measures taken to account for uncertainties in properly setting valve operating thrust to ensure operability, and (2) evaluate the schedule necessary to consider the new information on MOV diagnostic equipment inaccuracy and to take appropriate action in response to that information. Within 90 days of receipt of Supplement 5 to GL 89-10, licensees were required to: (1) notify the NRC staff of the diagnostic equipment used to confirm the proper size, or to establish settings, for safety-related MOVs, and (2) report whether they had taken actions or planned to take actions (including schedule) to address the new information on the accuracy of MOV diagnostic equipment.

The staff has reviewed the responses, and has found that, for the most part, licensees and permit holders have been actively addressing the uncertainties regarding the accuracy of MOV diagnostic equipment. The increased inaccuracy of MOV diagnostic equipment can raise questions regarding: (1) adequacy of torque switch settings to provide sufficient thrust while not exceeding thrust or torque structural limits and (2) the capability of actuator motors at current settings. In their responses, licensees and permit holders indicated that many MOVs had the potential for underthrusting or overthrusting as a result of the higher than expected inaccuracy of MOV diagnostic equipment. Consequently, some licensees reported that MOVs have been retested, adjusted, or modified to resolve the concerns regarding the accuracy of MOV diagnostic equipment.

You responded to Supplement 5 by letter dated September 27, 1993, and stated that you previously used the ITI-MOVATS TMD, but currently use Liberty Technologies' VOTES equipment for diagnostic testing. You state that you have retested or evaluated 14 MOVs because these valves had originally been tested with the TMD (retesting was performed with VOTES), and the "weak link" also was reevaluated.

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We note that you will need to generate new test reports for the VOTES data, and that two additional refueling outages will be needed to finish revising the original test reports, determine any required changes, and readjust torque switches, if necessary, during the next scheduled test. Finally, we are in receipt of your 10 CFR Part 21 notification report dated July 21, 1993, stating that VOTES accuracy is only specified for torque switch trip when the best-fit-straight-line calibration method is used.

During a future inspection, the NRC staff will discuss your resolution of the MOV diagnostic equipment accuracy issue. Particularly, (1) your evaluation of the 14 MOVs originally tested with the TMD, (2) the results of your evaluation of the MOVs using the VOTES and whether any operability concerns were identified, and (3) whether you intend to submit notification of a change to your scheduled commitments to GL 89-10.

This completes all efforts on TAC No. M75679. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please call me at (301) 504-1427.

Sincerely,
original signed by:
E. H. Trottier, Project Manager
Project Directorate I-3
Division of Reactor Project - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

DI RIBUTION:

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| NAME | SLittle | EHTrottier:dt | WButler | |
| DATE | 2/2/94 | 02/02/94 | 2/2/94 | |

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Sincerely,



E. H. Trottier, Project Manager
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Division of Reactor Project - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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