

YANKEE ATOMIC ELECTRIC COMPANY



Rowe, Massachusetts 01367

November 6, 1978

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

Subject: Reportable Occurrence 50-29/78-29

Dear Mr. Grier:

In accordance with Technical Specifications, Section 6.9.4.a.4, the following is immediately reportable as Licensee Event Report 78-29.

The plant was in a Mode 6 refueling shutdown condition with No. 23 guide tube removal being initiated. The operator noted a load increase above the normal base load and anticipated guide tube weight. The normal guide tube weight is 100 lbs. above base load. The operator observed a fluctuating load of 100-300 lbs. above base load. The guide tube withdrawal proceeded until the operator noticed that the control rod train was attached. He immediately reinserted the train.

An investigation was completed by the Instrument Department. It was discovered that the manipulator load cell was set incorrectly. The drive shaft was engaged by the latch fingers as well as the guide tube allowing withdrawal of the complete control rod train to approximately 90'.

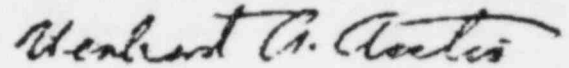
There was no safety hazard involved:

1. The reactor coolant system was borated to a 7.0% shutdown condition.
2. No other control rod was withdrawn.
3. The complete spent core was in place.
4. The operators were in contact with the control room where reactivity changes are normally observed and alarmed.
5. The refueling startup rate alarms and indications were in service.
6. Rod withdrawals are a part of refueling operations.

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Procedure CP-1209 will be revised to allow single control rod train withdrawal under controlled conditions. Restrictions similar to rod withdrawal for 1/M evaluations or drag tests will be incorporated.

Very truly yours,



Herbert A. Autio
Plant Superintendent

HAA

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