



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

March 24, 1994

Elisabeth Blaug, Esq.
Executive Office of the President
Council on Environmental Quality
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Ms. Blaug:

Your letter of February 25, 1994, to Mr. John Austin, Chief of the Decommissioning and Regulatory Issues Branch in the NRC Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, has been referred to me for response.

You are correct in stating that no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment is required for the Yankee Rowe component removal program as the action was not subject to Federal approval. Under Sections 30.41(b), 70.42(b) and 71.12(a) of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR), a nuclear plant licensee, by virtue of its license, may ship radioactive components and transfer them to one who is licensed to receive them without any further NRC action. Activities must also be in compliance with all pertinent provisions of the 10 CFR Part 50 license. Under 10 CFR 50.59, a licensee may take certain actions in regard to the facility without NRC approval.

The licensee submitted a decommissioning plan, dated December 20, 1993, along with an environmental report on that plan, both of which the staff is reviewing. The licensee submitted this decommissioning plan pursuant to 10 CFR 50.82 for NRC approval. The plan is prepared as a predicate to the return of a nuclear plant site to unrestricted use. Among the items that must be included in such a plan are the licensee's choice of decommissioning alternatives, controls on occupational and public radiation exposures, and methods of funding. In NUREG-0568, "Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement on Decommissioning of Nuclear Facilities," the NRC staff evaluated various methods of decommissioning and found both near-term decommissioning and storage of radioactive material at the site for a period not to exceed 60 years generally environmentally acceptable. The staff will prepare the appropriate Federal environmental document on the basis of the Yankee environmental review before it approves the Yankee Rowe decommissioning plan and supply that environmental document to you. The Commission has also requested the staff to monitor all activities after a nuclear plant is shut down and before the decommissioning plan is approved in order to ensure that the licensee operates within the bounds of the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement and does not preclude ultimate release of the facility for unrestricted use.

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You also requested a copy of the Yankee Rowe Decommissioning Environmental Report. I am sending a copy to you under separate cover, as well as a copy of NUREG-0568. The NRC regulations on environmental protection can be found in 10 CFR Part 51. Should you have any further questions, please contact the Yankee Rowe Project Manager, Mr. Morton Fairtile, at (301) 504-1442.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By
WILLIAM T. RUSSELL

William T. Russell, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Elisabeth Blaug

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Sincerely,



William T. Russell, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

ACTION

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: Elisabeth Blaug
CEQ
DUE: 03/29/94
EDO CONTROL: 0009860
DOC DT: 02/25/94
FINAL REPLY:

Elisabeth Blaug
CEQ

TO:
John Austin, NMSS

FOR SIGNATURE OF : Russell
** GRN **
CRC NO:

DESC: REQUEST INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION REGARDING
NRC'S NEPA COMPLIANCE FOR THE YANKEE ROWE'S
PROPOSED DECOMMISSIONING
ROUTING: Taylor
Milhoan
Thompson
Blaha
Bernero, NMSS
Cyr, OGC

DATE: 03/11/94

ASSIGNED TO: NRR
CONTACT: Russell

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

NRR RECEIVED: MARCH 11, 1994
NRR ACTION: DORS:GRIMES
NRR ROUTING: WR/FJM
AT
LR
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ACTION
TO NRR DIRECTOR
Mar. 24

RECEIVED
MAR 14 1994