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MAR 28 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: SYSTEMATIC ASSESSMENT OF LICENSEE PERFORMANCE (SALP)
REPORT No. 50-309/92-99**

This letter forwards the Maine Yankee SALP report for the period June 28, 1992, to February 5, 1994. This assessment was conducted under the revised SALP process that was implemented by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on July 19, 1993. Under the revised SALP process, the staff evaluates licensees in four functional areas: operations, maintenance, engineering, and plant support. The plant support area includes radiological controls, chemistry, emergency preparedness, security, fire protection, and housekeeping controls.

The NRC continued to see improved performance at Maine Yankee. Corporate and site management demonstrated an excellent proactive safety perspective as evidenced by the implementation of safety initiatives, actions taken to improve work processes, procedures, system performance and reliability, and the response to plant events. Management was routinely involved in daily plant activities, generally exercised effective oversight, and properly focused its attention on safety issues. However, oversight and control of contractors in the maintenance and radiation protection areas were sometimes weak. Improved communication between all the organizational units resulted in enhanced coordination and efficiency of activities. Performance of safety committees continued to be strong, as demonstrated by their comprehensive reviews, questioning attitude, and sound safety perspective. Self-assessment activities were effectively used to set performance goals, identify trends, and provide feedback to management. Plant personnel were well-trained, knowledgeable of plant conditions and activities, and responded to plant events in a prompt and thorough manner.

Outstanding program performance was noted in the operations and plant support functional areas. Several noteworthy initiatives also have improved program performance in the maintenance and engineering functional areas. The shutdown risk management program was a strength in that both planning and outage control were successfully demonstrated during the last refueling outage.

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Plant operations was rated Category 1. Corporate and site management demonstrated an excellent safety-oriented philosophy, as evidenced by a conservative approach to plant operations and by thorough review, planning, and resolution of operational concerns. Management was closely involved in day-to-day issues and provided excellent oversight of plant activities. The operations staff's excellent performance contributed to the safe operation of the plant. The training program was very effective and contributed significantly to excellent operator performance.

Maintenance was rated Category 2. The overall quality of maintenance activities was good, and we observed improved performance since the last period. Maintenance management oversight and controls were generally strong, and high quality technical work was performed. Some weaknesses were noted in contractor performance and licensee oversight of contractors.

Engineering was rated Category 2, and overall engineering performance continued to be very good. Engineering management coordinated activities with the plant well. The technical quality of engineering work products was very good and engineering personnel were knowledgeable of their fields and of the plant. However, occasional weaknesses existed in aggressively pursuing the broader implications of engineering modifications and ensuring adequate procedures and training are provided to the site as part of the modification process.

Plant support was rated Category 1. Overall, plant support functions significantly contributed to safe plant performance. Performance in the radiation protection area continued to improve and resulted in the lowest total personal radiation exposure for a Maine Yankee refueling outage since 1977. However, the high number of personal contamination events continued to be of concern. There was strong performance in the emergency preparedness area, and a number of important improvements were implemented. Security program performance continued to be a strength.

We have scheduled a management meeting with you that will be open for public observation at the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station Information Center on April 26, 1994. At the meeting, you should be prepared to discuss our assessment and any initiatives you plan to take to address the concerns noted in our evaluation.

We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

William F. Kane

Thomas T. Martin

for Regional Administrator

Enclosure: Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance Report No. 50-309/92-99

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cc w/encl:

G. Leitch, Vice President, Operations
P. L. Anderson, Project Manager (Yankee Atomic Electric Company)
R. W. Blackmore, Plant Manager
L. Diehl, Manager of Public and Governmental Affairs
J. A. Ritsher, Attorney (Ropes and Gray)
P. Dostie, State Nuclear Safety Inspector
P. Brann, Assistant Attorney General
U. Vanags, Maine State Planning Office
C. Brinkman, Combustion Engineering, Inc.
First Selectmen of Wiscasset
Maine State Planning Officer
The Chairman
Commissioner Rogers
Commissioner Remick
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Local Public Document Room (LPDR)
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
K. Abraham, PAO (22 copies)
NRC Resident Inspector
State of Maine, SLO Designee

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*SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE PAGE.

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WHehl w/Comments

*PER TELECON,
ED TROTTIER CONCURRED
FOR JOSE CALVO*

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