

OCT 22 1990

Docket No. 50-309

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

Gentlemen:

Subject: Granting of Temporary Waiver of Compliance

This confirms the October 19, 1990 oral granting of your October 19, 1990 request to shut down the reactor at 5% of rated power per hour and to keep the plant in hot shutdown while repairing limit switches. Technical Specification 5.0.A was partially waived to grant the above request; that waiver expires at 12:01 a.m., October 27, 1990.

A 5% per hour shutdown rate was authorized because the associated slower shutdown inhibits propagation of fuel pin cladding defects. Keeping the plant in hot shutdown was authorized to prevent unnecessary spreading of radioactivity into Residual Heat Removal System components outside the containment building. These actions reduce the potential for radiation exposures. Also, the equipment fault conditions involved may impact valve position indications but do not inhibit placing the valves involved in their accident response positions.

The existing fuel clad and reactor coolant radioactivity conditions will not be corrected by the repairs to the limit switches. You therefore may need to further analyze and pursue the safety implications of potential shutdown causes in order to justify, in advance, other than one-time waiver requirements.

A copy of your request is enclosed for reference.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Thomas T. Martin  
Regional Administrator

Enclosure: As Stated

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

MY WAIVER OF COMPLIANCE - 0001.0.0  
10/22/90

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OCT 22 1990

Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company 2

cc w/encl:

- J. Randazza, Assistant Chairman of the Board
- J. H. Garrity, Executive Assistant to the President
- E. T. Boulette, Vice President, Operations
- P. L. Anderson, Project Manager
- J. D. Firth, Vice President, Public and Governmental Affairs
- G. D. Whittier, Manager, Nuclear Engineering and Licensing
- R. W. Blackmore, Plant Manager
- J. A. Ritsher, Attorney (Ropes and Gray)
- Peter Brann, Assistant Attorney General
- U. Vanags, Maine State Planning Office
- Maine Yankee Hearing Service List
- Public Document Room (PDR)
- Local Public Document Room (LPDR)
- Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
- NRC Resident Inspector
- State of Maine, SLO Designee

bcc w/encl:

- Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)
- Management Assistant, DRMA (w/o encl)
- W. Kane, DRA
- C. Hehl, DRP
- J. Wiggins, DRP
- J. Joyner, DRSS
- J. Johnson, DRP
- E. McCabe, DRP
- H. Eichenholz, SRI - Vermont Yankee
- K. Abraham, PAO, (2) All Inspection Reports
- J. Caldwell, EDO
- E. Trottier, LPM, NRR
- B. Boger, NRR
- R. Wessman, NRR
- T. Murley, NRR
- J. Partlow, NRR
- J. Lieberman, OE
- A. Mendiola, NRR

*NRE: per telecom 10/19  
 Boger 10/22*

*Does not come to see*

RI:DRP  
*C.M. per telecom*  
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RI:DRP  
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OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

MY WAIVER OF COMPLIANCE - 0002.0.0  
10/22/90

MAINE YANKEE HEARING SERVICE LIST

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Charles D. Frizzle  
President

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October 22, 1990  
MN-90-106 CDF-90-98

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
Attention: Document Control Desk  
Washington, DC 20058

- References:
- (a) License No. DPR-36 (Docket No. 50-309)
  - (b) USNRC Letter to MYAPCo dated April 25, 1989 - Emergency Response Capability - Conformance to Regulatory Guide 1.97, Revision 3.
  - (c) MYAPCo Letter to USNRC dated February 15, 1989 (MN-89-18)

Subject: Equipment Qualification Repair - Request for Temporary waiver of Compliance

Gentlemen:

With this letter, Maine Yankee requests a temporary waiver of compliance from Technical Specification 3.0.A requirements relating to the time constraints associated with completing a reactor shutdown and cooldown for non-conformance with a Limiting Condition for Operation. Specifically, Maine Yankee requests NRC concurrence to limit the shutdown rate to 5% rated power per hour, and to maintain the plant in the hot shutdown condition while repairs to equipment are completed.

At approximately noon time on October 19, 1990, Maine Yankee determined an environmentally qualified limit switch was not qualified due to improper installation of a Scotchcast conduit seal. There are 42 limit switches currently installed at Maine Yankee that could also have been improperly installed. Because of the nature of the failure and the number of conduit seals involved, Maine Yankee elected to declare all similar conduit seals non-qualified, and to commence a plant shutdown to effect repairs. The repairs are expected to be completed within seven days.

A 5% per hour shutdown rate is requested to minimize the impact on the four to six fuel pins currently estimated to be failed. By remaining in the hot shutdown condition, Maine Yankee expects to minimize the spread of contaminants associated with the failed fuel and to keep worker radiation exposures as low as reasonably achievable.

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ZP

# Maine Yankee

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
Attention: Document Control Desk

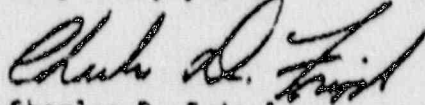
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We consider this request justified as it does not involve a significant hazards consideration. This conclusion is based on the following:

1. The limit switches in question are associated with Control Room indication of containment integrity valve position. Failure of the limit switches does not prevent closure of any containment integrity valve.
2. The containment integrity valves are regularly tested to verify valve operability.
3. The containment integrity valves associated have alternate means of isolation in all cases.
4. The likelihood of an accident requiring containment integrity during the period of this request is extremely remote.
5. There is no environmental impact associated with this request.

This request for compliance has been reviewed and approved by the Maine Yankee Plant Operations Review Committee. We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

  
Charles D. Frizzle  
President

CDF:SJJ

c: Mr. Thomas T. Martin  
Mr. Charles Marschall  
Mr. E. H. Trottier

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