

MAY 13 1994

Docket No. 50-29

Mr. Jay K. Thayer
Vice President and Manager of Operations
Yankee Atomic Electric Company
580 Main Street
Bolton, Massachusetts 01740-1398

Dear Mr. Thayer:

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION NO. 50-29/94-04

An announced safety inspection was conducted on April 19 - 22, 1994 at your facility, by Mr. J. Nick of this office, of activities authorized by NRC License No. DPR-03, including the radiation protection program. The results of this inspection were discussed with Mr. St. Laurent and others of your staff on April 22, 1994.

Areas reviewed during this inspection are important to health and safety and are discussed in the enclosed inspection report. These areas included review of: radiological activities for the component removal plan, transportation of radioactive materials, implementation of the revisions to 10 CFR 20, and the program to maintain workers' radiation exposure as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA).

This letter also refers to the in-office NRC inspection conducted on January 19-27, 1994, to review the circumstances associated with the shipment of a cask containing radioactive waste which was found to have non-fixed radioactive contamination levels on the exterior surface of the cask in excess of the NRC regulatory limit. The finding was reported to the NRC by your staff after you had received notification from the State of South Carolina. The NRC inspection report was sent to you on February 10, 1994. An apparent violation associated with the shipment was identified in the report as an unresolved item, pending further review by the NRC. Based on the comprehensive actions that you took prior to the shipment in an attempt to achieve compliance, including several decontaminations of the cask to obtain surface contamination levels within the NRC regulatory limits, and the low safety significance of this event, the NRC has decided to exercise enforcement discretion and not issue a Notice of Violation in this case. This exercise of enforcement discretion is pursuant to Section VII.B. of 10 CFR Part 2, Appendix C, the General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Action.

Your radiation protection program was generally effective in protecting the safety of workers during the component removal project. Your organization was staffed with competent and knowledgeable personnel. Facility tours indicated good housekeeping in contaminated areas and proper radiological controls. Radioactive waste shipments were performed properly, with no deficiencies noted. The implementation of the revisions to 10 CFR 20 was very comprehensive,

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also with no deficiencies noted. The ALARA program was good, with one area of weakness identified, as discussed below.

Within the scope of this inspection, one safety concern and no violations of NRC regulations were identified at your facility. The safety concern involved a weakness in the radiological controls program involving the documentation of ALARA program initiatives and reviews. Because of this concern, we request that you respond to this letter. In your response, you should document the specific actions taken and any additional actions you plan to address this weakness in the radiological controls program, including the dates when the corrective actions will be completed. Please submit your response within 30 days of the date of this letter.

Your cooperation with us in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:
James H. Joyner

James H. Joyner, Chief
Facilities Radiological Safety
and Safeguards Branch
Division of Radiation Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure:
Inspection Report No. 50-29/94-04

cc w/encls:

A. Kadak, President and Chief Executive Officer
N. St. Laurent, Plant Superintendent
R. Hallisey, Department of Public Health, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
T. Dignan, Esquire
J. Grant, Senior Licensing Engineer
R. Sedano, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Public Service
T. Rapone, Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety
R. Gelder, New England Conference of Public Utilities Commissioners, Inc.
Citizens Awareness Network
Public Document Room (PDR)
Local Public Document Room (LPDR)
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
NRC Resident Inspector
K. Abraham, PAO (2)
Commonwealth of Massachusetts, SLO Designee
State of Vermont, SLO Designee

bcc w/encl:
Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)

bcc w/encl (VIA E-MAIL):
W. Dean, OEDO
M. Fairtile, NRR
W. Butler, NRR
M. Shannon, ILPB

RI:DRSS
Nick



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