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Docket No. 50-309

Mr. John H. Garrity
Nuclear Engineering and Licensing
Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company
83 Edison Drive
Augusta, Maine 04336

Dear Mr. Garrity:

SUBJECT: TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR PRESSURIZER HEATERS-- MAINE YANKEE.

REF: USNRC letter to YAEC dated April 29, 1980

In reviewing Maine Yankee's Technical Specifications, we have concluded that Section 3.3. J concerning pressurizer heaters may be inadequate.

The current specification only requires the pressurizer to be operable with at least one bank of proportional heaters. This appears to be less restrictive than the NRC's finding in Reference 1, which stated: "... there is 150 kw of heater capacity on each train of emergency power...".

Our concern is motivated by the importance of the pressurizer heater in preventing void formation in other parts of the reactor coolant system during natural circulation cooldown. We believe a more complete specification, including the heater capacity, would be desirable. The CE standard technical specifications provide a good example in this matter. On the other hand, pressurizer heaters are fairly reliable. If your operating data can show that available heater capacity has always been maintained well above minimum levels required to maintain natural circulation cooldown, then a new technical specification would not appear necessary.

Please review this concern regarding Maine Yankee and provide us with a written response within 120 days of the receipt of this letter.

The information requested affects fewer than 10 respondents; therefore OMB clearance under P. L. 96-511 is not required.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
Robert A. Clark

Robert A. Clark, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #3
Division of Licensing

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