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Docket No. 50-309

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

Dear Mr. Garrity:

SUBJECT: FUEL HANDLING ACCIDENT INSIDE CONTAINMENT - MAINE YANKEE
ATOMIC POWER STATION

By letters dated January 17, 1977, November 30, 1978 and January 23, 1981, we requested that you evaluate the potential consequences of a postulated fuel handling accidents inside the containment at the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station. You have submitted evaluations concerning this matter dated March 18, 1977, February 5, 1981, and March 24, 1981.

Based on our evaluation of this postulated accident, we have reached the following conclusions about the technical specifications, operating procedures and plant equipment required to maintain the dose levels at the plant's exclusion area boundary less than the reference levels in 10 CFR Part 100.

First, the current technical specification requiring use of the charcoal filter in the containment ventilation system can be relaxed for refueling operations conducted 210 hours after shutdown. This would allow the charcoal filter to be bypassed for operational reasons consistent with other constraints on release of radiological effluents.

Second, the Maine Yankee Technical Specifications must incorporate surveillance requirements to give the assurance that the charcoal and particulate filters have at least 50% iodine removal efficiency during their operation for refueling activities inside containment.

Third, to ensure containment integrity during the period when the filter is in operation, technical specifications must be implemented stating that during fuel handling operations for at least 210 hours after shutdown, (1) the equipment door must be closed and held in place by a minimum of four bolts, and (2) a minimum of one door in each airlock is closed. An exception to the second condition will be allowed if both airlocks doors are opened briefly to allow passage of long objects through the airlocks under appropriate administrative procedures.

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Mr. John H. Garrity

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You are requested to propose changes to Maine Yankee's Technical Specifications to provide an acceptable level of protection to the public in relation to the potential consequences of the postulated accident. These changes would also allow Maine Yankee more operational flexibility. Proposal of these technical specifications will resolve our concerns related to this issue. These proposals should be submitted within 120 days of the receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,
Original signed by
Robert A. Clark

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

cc: See next page

OFFICE	ORB#3:DL	ORB#3:DL ^{RH}	ORB#3:DL			
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DATE	9/14/82	9/14/82	9/14/82			

Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company

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