

APR 19 1983

Docket No. 50-309

License No. DPR-36

Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company
ATTN: Mr. J. B. Randazza
Vice President
Nuclear Operations
83 Edison Drive
Augusta, Maine 04336

Gentlemen:

Subject: Inspection No. 50-309/83-05

This refers to the special inspection conducted by Mr. P. Swetland of this office on April 6 - 7, 1983 at the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station of activities authorized by NRC License No. DPR-36 and to the discussions of our findings held by Mr. Swetland with Mr. E. Wood of your staff at the conclusion of the inspection.

The inspection was performed to examine the degradation of the High Pressure Safety Injection System (HPSI), to determine the event sequence and causes of this event, to evaluate the consequences and to assess short and long term proposed corrective actions. Areas examined during this inspection are described in the NRC Region I Inspection Report enclosed with this letter. Within these areas the inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and records, interviews with personnel, and observations by the inspector.

Apparent violations of NRC requirements are discussed in the inspection report enclosed with this letter including significant violations which we are considering for appropriate enforcement action. We will be addressing this matter under separate correspondence at a later time.

Our preliminary evaluation indicates that the use of a general maintenance procedure led to a condition which compromised the operability of a HPSI subsystem for a period of about 29 days. The review of this approach by site personnel apparently did not recognize the interactions involved with electrical interlocks and the repair of a HPSI motor. Further, our review determined that for about seven hours during this period, because operators were not aware that the HPSI system had been degraded, preventive maintenance was conducted on an emergency diesel generator which powers the redundant HPSI subsystem. As a result, the plant was operated at power without HPSI operable. This event raises questions as to the adequacy of the controls in place for processing and evaluating maintenance work requests associated with safety systems.

We consider this occurrence to be serious and have scheduled an enforcement conference for April 21, 1983. At the conference, you should be prepared to discuss the circumstances surrounding this event, and your immediate corrective actions. In addition, you should also be prepared to discuss the controls that are currently in place and those that are contemplated in order to prevent future occurrences.

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

8305030350 830419
PDR ADDCK 05000309
Q PDR

1201

APR 19 1983

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790(a), a copy of this letter and the enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room unless you notify this office, by telephone, within ten days of the date of this letter and submit written application to withhold information contained therein within thirty days of the date of this letter. Such application must be consistent with the requirements of 2.790(b)(1). The telephone notification of your intent to request withholding, or any request for an extension of the 10 day period which you believe necessary, should be made to the Supervisor, Files, Mail and Records, USNRC Region I, at (215) 337-5223.

Your cooperation with us in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Richard W. Starostecki, Director
Division of Project and Resident
Programs

Enclosure:
NRC Region I Inspection Report No. 50-309/83-05

cc w/encl:
E. W. Thurlow, President
J. H. Garrity, Senior Director, Nuclear Engineering and Licensing
E. C. Wood, Plant Manager
R. H. Groce, Senior Engineer, Licensing (YAEC)
J. A. Ritsher, Attorney (Ropes and Gray)
Public Document Room (PDR)
Local Public Document Room (LPDR)
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
NRC Resident Inspector
State of Maine

bcc w/encl:
Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)
Senior Operations Officer (w/o encls)
Section Chief, DPRP
Enforcement Specialist
Regional Counsel

4/13/83
RI: DPRP
for Swetland:hh
4/13/83
am Kelly

RWD
RI: DPRP
Gallo
4/13/83

RWD
RI: DPRP
Green
4/13/83

DPH
RI: ES
Holody
4/13/83

RS
RI: DPRP
Starostecki
4/13/83

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY