

DOD

December 9, 1994

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

SUBJECT: YANKEE ROWE TEAM INSPECTION REPORT 50-29/94-80

Dear Mr. Thayer:

This refers to the special, announced team inspection conducted by the NRC staff on October 17-21, 1994. The multi-disciplined team was led by Mr. P. Harris of this office and involved inspectors from the NRC Region I office, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, and the Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards. The inspection included a review of activities authorized by your license DPR-3 for the Yankee Rowe Nuclear Power Station. On October 21, we discussed our findings with you and members of your staff.

This inspection was conducted as part of an NRC initiative to ensure the safety of spent fuel storage systems at permanently shutdown reactors and to verify that licensees met the requirements of NRC Bulletin 94-01. Areas examined included a review of selected safety evaluations, special nuclear materials accountability, and your conformance with license requirements. Our inspection and conclusions were based on selected examination of procedures and surveillance, interviews with plant personnel, review of records and drawings, and independent observations by the inspectors.

Overall, the Team concluded that programs were implemented in accordance with licensed requirements; the predictive maintenance and chemistry programs were effective; and your self-assessment programs were thorough. In particular, we noted that your Fuel Storage Self-Assessment was comprehensive and detailed. Your staff's efforts in this area demonstrated a very strong safety perspective. However, the lack of administrative controls to assure that engineering evaluations are conducted to support the long-term removal of components from service that are in systems necessary for the safe storage of spent fuel was identified as a weakness. Specifically, configuration changes made to the service water and component cooling water systems were not evaluated for potential impact on the remaining system components. Your staff stated that additional administrative controls would be developed to assure thorough evaluations for future system configuration changes.

Based on the results of this inspection, one isolated violation of NRC requirements was identified involving the failure of your staff to evaluate whether a 10 CFR 50.59 safety evaluation was necessary to assure that the temporary storage of a portable filtration unit inside the spent fuel pit was safe. The failure to assure that adequate procedural instructions exist

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within your spent fuel pit control procedure is not being cited because of the low safety significance and the criteria specified in Section VII.B.(1) of the NRC Enforcement Policy were satisfied.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, we would be glad to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

James C. Linville, Chief
Projects Branch No. 3
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 50-29

Enclosure: NRC Inspection Report 50-029/94-80

cc w/encl:

A. Kadak, President and Chief Executive Officer
N. St. Laurent, Plant Superintendent
R. Hallisey, Department of Public Health, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
T. Dignan, Esquire
K. Heider, Licensing Manager
R. Sedano, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Public Service
T. Rapone, Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety
L. Stevens, 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)
K. Abraham, PAO (2 copies)
Commonwealth of Massachusetts, SLO Designee
State of Vermont, SLO Designee

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bcc w/encl:
Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)
M. Oprendek, DRP

bcc w/encl (VIA E-MAIL):
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