PSNH

Public Service of New Hampshire

NEW HAMPSHIRE YANKEE DIVISION

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SBN-821
T.F. Q2.2.2
June 11, 1985

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region I
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, PA 19406

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

References:
(a) Construction Permits CPPR-135 and CPPR-136, Docket Numbers 50-443 and 50-444
(b) GNB Batteries Inc. Letter, R. H. Desai (GNB) to S. W. Eckrich (UE&C), dated March 27, 1985
(c) Telecon of May 8, 1985 D. E. Groves/R. C. Jamison (YAEC) to J. Grant (Region I)

Subject: Interim 10CFR50.55(e) Report: Inadequate Spacing Between Cells and Battery Rack

Dear Sir:

Reference (c) was a 10CFR50.55(e) potential deficiency report regarding the safety-related batteries at Seabrook which were manufactured by GNB Batteries, Inc. We have reviewed the problem further and conclude that it is reportable as a 10CFR50.55(e) deficiency. The following is our interim report on this subject.

Description of Deficiency

We were notified by the manufacturer [Reference (b)] that our safety-related batteries may have been installed with inadequate spacing between the cells and the rack. Their maximum recommended spacing was 1/4 inch between the end cells and the end stringers in the rack and 3/8 inch between the side of the cells and the side stringers in the rack. These spacings were the maximum values used during their seismic testing. Prior to the notification in Reference (b), GNB had not shown these spacing requirements in their drawings or qualification report. Field inspections showed that we had spacings in excess of these maximum values.

Safety Implications

The ability of the safety-related batteries to supply dc power during and after a seismic event may be degraded with a cell spacing in excess of that used during seismic testing.

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Corrective Action

Correct spacing will be obtained by adding cell spacers or moving the rack stringers to reduce the gap. The drawings or qualification report will also be revised to indicate the correct cell spacing. We will notify you when this corrective action is complete.

This letter is being filed pursuant to the interim reporting provisions of 10CFR50.55(e)(3).

Very truly yours,

John DeVincentis, Director
Engineering and Licensing

cc: Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Service List

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