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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

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Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

In the Matter of
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, ET AL.
(Seabrook Station, Units 1 and 2)
Docket Nos. 50-443-OL-1, (Off-Site Emergency Planning)
50-444-OL-1 (Onsite Emergency Planning and Safety Issues)

Gentlemen:

We are notifying the Licensing and Appeal Boards of the attached press release issued by the New Hampshire Yankee Division of the Public Service Company of New Hampshire on December 30, 1987. That press release states in part:

- That Seabrook Station's management is offering its siren poles in five Massachusetts towns to those towns.
- "The Massachusetts sirens will no longer be part of the plant's licensing efforts."
- "The company ... will disconnect all equipment used by Seabrook personnel to activate the sirens"
- "New Hampshire Yankee is taking steps to provide

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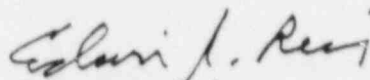
alternative methods to notify residents of a plant emergency, as required by federal law."

The press release further quotes New Hampshire Yankee's vice president of engineering and programs as stating that, "We will not be including the Massachusetts siren system in any documentation to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission or the Federal Emergency Management Agency involving the licensing of Seabrook Station."

We are informing the Appeal Board and the Licensing Boards of this press release because it may have relevance to matters before the Boards. These matters include the November 13, 1987 motion of the Massachusetts Attorney general to reopen the record and admit a new contention involving the availability of sirens in Newburyport, Massachusetts; Applicant's December 18, 1987 response to that motion which describes an alternate alerting system for Newburyport, which in part relies on sirens in other Massachusetts towns; compliance with 10 CFR 50.47(b)(5); and authorizations for the issuance of low power and full power licenses for Seabrook.

The Staff has been reviewing Applicant's alternate alerting plan for Newburyport in order to determine if it meets the requirements of 10 CFR 50.47(b)(5), and to reply to the Massachusetts Attorney General's motion to reopen the record which is premised upon the unavailability of the Newburyport sirens. In view of the Applicant's announcement that it intends to develop still other alternate means of public notification and that it will no longer rely on sirens in the affected Massachusetts towns, it appears that any conclusion the Staff might reach in regard to the Newburyport alternate alerting plan which in part relies on availability of other sirens in Massachusetts towns may now be moot.

Sincerely,



Edwin J. Reis
Deputy Assistant General Counsel

Attachment: As Stated

cc: Service List

New Hampshire
Yankee

TO: Robert Sweeney

NEWS

492-7285
492-7376

For Immediate Release

Contact: David Scanzoni
(603) 474-9521
Ext. 2729

December 30, 1987

SEABROOK OFFERS TO GIVE ITS 32 SIREN POLES TO FIVE MASSACHUSETTS TOWNS

SEABROOK, N.H. -- New Hampshire Yankee, Seabrook Station's management company, has offered to give its 32 siren poles in five northeastern Massachusetts towns to each of the respective town governments, saying the Massachusetts sirens will no longer be part of the plant's licensing efforts.

New Hampshire Yankee said it is willing to give the sirens to the towns of Newbury, West Newbury, Amesbury, Salisbury and Merrimac with no obligations required on the part of the towns. In addition, the company said it will disconnect all equipment used by Seabrook personnel to activate the sirens.

The offer was made in a letter sent yesterday to each town's board of selectmen. If accepted, the towns could use the sirens as a local emergency notification system for events such as school closings, fires, hurricanes, industrial accidents or traffic accidents involving trucks carrying toxic chemicals or hazardous waste on major highways including Interstates 95 and 495.

The decision to give the sirens to the towns follows recent federal court action involving permits issued for the Massachusetts sirens. New Hampshire Yankee is taking steps to provide alternative methods to notify residents of a plant emergency, as required by federal law.

"We will not be including the Massachusetts siren system in any documentation to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission or the Federal Emergency Management Agency involving the licensing of Seabrook Station," wrote Ted Feigenbaum, New Hampshire Yankee's vice president of engineering and quality programs, in the letter to selectmen.

"We have stated repeatedly that we wish to be good neighbors," Feigenbaum continued. "We understand that some feel strongly that they wish not to participate in emergency planning for Seabrook Station. We respect these feelings....Despite the differences in opinion on Seabrook, we don't believe that local residents are well served by the removal of an existing public alert notification system."

The siren poles, similar to traditional utility poles, were erected in late 1985 and early 1986. Amesbury has 10; Salisbury 8; Newbury 7; West Newbury 5; and Merrimac 2. Newburyport, also located within 10 miles of Seabrook, already owns its own siren system.

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Feigenbaum said the company's offer regarding the Massachusetts sirens has no bearing on the company's siren notification system for the 17 New Hampshire towns within 10 miles of the plant.

"Sirens remain an important and integral part of the emergency plan for New Hampshire," Feigenbaum said.

.....

The full text of the letter sent to the Massachusetts selectmen follows:

Dear Selectmen,

As you know, New Hampshire Yankee Division currently owns and maintains a public alert notification system in the Town of

The public alert notification system was originally installed for use by Civil Defense officials in the event of an incident at Seabrook Station. As an additional feature, local public safety officials have the capability to activate these sirens for use in a number of potential emergency situations, including natural disasters, hazardous materials incidents, or fires.

As a result of recent court actions on siren pole removal, New Hampshire Yankee is taking steps to provide alternative methods of notification to Massachusetts residents living within 10 miles of Seabrook Station.

Because we believe that the sirens could continue to provide local civil defense authorities with an effective means of notifying residents of emergencies not related to Seabrook, we are extending to the Town of the following offer. New Hampshire Yankee will give the sirens and poles to the Town of We will disconnect all equipment used by Seabrook personnel to activate the sirens. We will not be including the Massachusetts siren system in any documentation to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission or the Federal Emergency Management Agency involving the licensing of Seabrook Station.

We have stated repeatedly that we wish to be good neighbors. We understand that some feel strongly that they wish not to participate in emergency planning for Seabrook Station. We respect these feelings.

Despite the differences in opinion on Seabrook, we don't believe that local residents are well served by the removal of an existing public alert notification system. We request that our proposal be included on the agenda of the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen. We would be willing to have a representative of New Hampshire Yankee attend the meeting and answer any questions you may have.

Please advise us whether you will be considering our proposal at your upcoming meeting. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ted C. Feigenbaum
Vice President