

August 28, 1997

Mr. Michael B. Sellman
President
Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company
329 Bath Road
Brunswick, Maine 04011

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-309/97-03 - REPLY

Dear Mr. Sellman:

This letter refers to your July 3, 1997 correspondence, in response to our June 6, 1997 letter.

Our inspectors reviewed the immediate corrective actions taken to address the inadvertent start of the Low Pressure Safety Injection (LPSI) pump and found them appropriate. However, it appears that those actions taken to avoid future violations were not broad enough to preclude similar problems that occurred in late June, 1997. These recent events involved inadequacies in operator performance that resulted in significant valve lineup errors. As a result, you initiated an "operations stand down" on June 30, 1997. Also, in NRC Inspection Report 50-309/97-06, dated August 14, 1997, we issued a violation for additional operator errors. We expect that your corrective actions for these later events will be broad and comprehensive in order to avoid future similar violations. The effectiveness of your actions will be reviewed at a future date.

Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Curtis J. Cowgill, III, Chief
Projects Branch 5
Division of Reactor Projects

[Handwritten signature]

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Q PDR



Docket No. 50-309

cc:

G. Leitch, Vice President, Operations
M. Meisner, Vice President, Licensing and Regulatory Compliance
R. Fraser, Vice President, Engineering
J. M. Block, Attorney at Law
P. L. Anderson, Project Manager (Yankee Atomic Electric Company)
R. Blackmore, Plant Manager

cc w/ copy of Licensee Response Letter:

L. Diehl, Manager of Public and Governmental Affairs
J. A. Ritscher, Attorney (Ropes and Gray)
P. Dostie, State Nuclear Safety Inspector
P. Brann, Assistant Attorney General
U. Vanags, State Nuclear Safety Advisor
C. Brinkman, Combustion Engineering, Inc.
W. D. Meinert, Nuclear Engineer
First Selectmen of Wiscasset
Maine State Planning Officer - Nuclear Safety Advisor
State of Maine, SLO Designee
State Planning Officer - Executive Department
Friends of the Coast

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Maine Yankee

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July 3, 1997

MN-97-82 JRH-97-168

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Attention: Document Control Desk

Washington, D.C. 20555

- References: (a) License No. DPR-36 (Docket No. 50-309)
(b) USNRC Letter to MYAPCo, dated June 05, 1997, Notice of Violation for NRC Inspection Report 50-309 / 97-03

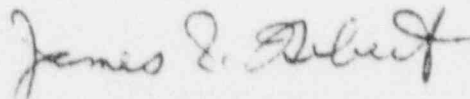
Subject: Reply to Notice of Violation Associated with NRC Inspection Report No. 50-309/97-03.

Gentlemen:

The attachment to this letter provides Maine Yankee's reply to the Notice of Violation contained in reference (b). Included in this response is the reason for the violation, corrective actions/actions taken to prevent recurrence and the full compliance date.

Please contact us should you have further questions regarding this matter.

Very truly yours,



James R. Hebert, Manager
Regulatory Affairs Department

JW/mwf

Enclosure

- c: Mr. Hubert Miller
Mr. J. T. Yerokun
Mr. D. H. Dorman
Mr. Patrick J. Dostie
Mr. Uldis Vanags

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Reply To Notice of Violation

Violation:

During an NRC inspection conducted on March 16 to April 26, 1997, a violation of NRC requirements was identified. In accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions," NUREG-1600, the violation is listed below:

- A. Technical Specification 5.8.2. requires, in part, that written procedures shall be established, implemented and maintained covering the activities referenced in Appendix "A" of Regulatory Guide 1.33, (Rev. 2), February 1978. Regulatory Guide 1.33, (Revision 2), dated February 1978, recommends in Appendix "A", Section 1, administrative procedures for authorities and responsibilities for safe operation and shutdown.

Maine Yankee Procedure No. 1-24-4, Responsibilities and Authorities of Operating Personal, revision 9, step 3.2.3, requires that the Shift Operating Supervisor ensure that his personnel stop evolutions when unexpected conditions arise. Step 3.3.3 of the procedure requires that the Control Room Operator stop evolutions when unexpected conditions arise.

Contrary to the above, during the testing of a containment spray pump on April 9, 1996, operators failed to stop the test when the control room operator unexpectedly started a low pressure safety injection pump instead of the spray pump being tested.

Maine Yankee Response:

Maine Yankee agrees with this violation. Procedure 1-26-4 requires that the test be stopped. When the incorrect pump was started the test should have been stopped and a determination made on how to proceed.

The performance of the Shift Operating Supervisor (SOS) and the Control Room Operator (CRO) were contrary to managements expectations and operator training. The procedure clearly states the requirements, Operators are trained on these expectations, and management expects procedure compliance.

Immediate Corrective Actions:

P-12A was evaluated for the effects of the rapid start/stop cycle. The pump was aligned with a suction and discharge path with LSI-F-59 throttled 10% open. It was determined that inadvertent start of P-12A had no detrimental effects on pump operability.

Both operators were taken off shift pending management review of their actions and corrective actions.

Corrective Actions Taken to Avoid Further Violation:

Disciplinary actions was taken for both operators. The Plant Shift Superintendent (PSS) the Shift Operating Supervisor (SOS), and the Control Room Operator (CRO) received counseling on management expectations.

A Training Review Board was convened to determine what retraining should be administered. The CRO was decertified subject to training including Stop, Think, Act, and Review (STAR), Responsibilities & Authorities of Operating Personnel, communications, and simulator training and evaluation. This event was reviewed with all crews with an emphasis on STAR, Operations Philosophy Guidelines and Operations Communication Standards.

Procedure 1-300-6, OPERATIONAL AND INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS, has been revised to more clearly define managements expectations concerning communication.

Full Compliance Date:

Full compliance was achieved on April 10, 1997 when the individuals were counseled concerning management expectations and the CRO was decertified subject to retraining and evaluation.