



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

August 13, 1997

50-809

Ms. Kris L. Christine  
P.O. Box 12  
Alna, ME 04535

Dear Ms. Christine:

I am responding to your letter of July 30, 1997, to Chairman Jackson of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regarding cable separation issues at the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station (MYAPS).

You requested assurance that the NRC will not allow MYAPS to operate without complying with NRC regulations, especially regarding cable separation. The NRC staff's actions over the last eight months clearly indicate that the staff intended to ensure resolution of the cable separation and other compliance problems at MYAPS before it would have considered allowing restart of the facility.

When the cable separation issues were identified in December 1996, the staff issued a confirmatory action letter (CAL), CAL No. 1-96-015, dated December 18, 1996, to ensure that those issues would be fully resolved before plant startup. Subsequently, the scope of the CAL was expanded to address additional areas of non-compliance (CAL No. 1-96-015, Supplement 1, dated January 30, 1997.) In January 1997, the staff placed MYAPS on the NRC watch list. In addition to the cable separation and other compliance issues identified in the CAL and CAL Supplement, NRC Inspection Report 50-309/96-16, dated February 11, 1997, identified 16 potential violations of NRC requirements. These potential violations were the subject of an open predecisional enforcement conference held in Wiscasset, Maine, on March 11, 1997.

In February 1997, the staff initiated its restart review process consistent with NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 0350 to ensure that safety/compliance issues would be thoroughly reviewed and appropriately addressed before plant restart. By letter dated May 23, 1997, the staff issued its Restart Action Plan (RAP) for Maine Yankee. The RAP contained a list of issues that the NRC planned to inspect "to assess the licensee's compliance with applicable regulatory requirements and conformance with the facility design and licensing bases." Included in the RAP list were cable separation and open NRC violations. This plan was designed to provide assurance that restart and operation of the MYAPS would only occur with assurance of compliance with applicable regulatory requirements. These activities have been rendered moot by the licensee's August 7, 1997, certification under 10 CFR 50.82(a)(1)(i) of permanent cessation of power operation of MYAPS.

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Ms. Kris L. Christine

- 2 -

In your letter, you also assert that since MYAPS began operating, the NRC staff has repeatedly failed to effectively oversee regulatory compliance at MYAPS. Therefore, your letter is being forwarded to the NRC Office of the Inspector General for whatever action that office deems appropriate.

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding compliance at Maine Yankee. I trust that you will find this letter responsive to them.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Daniel H. Dorman, Project Manager  
Project Directorate I-3  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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FINAL REPLY:

Kris L. Christine  
Alna, Maine

TO:

Chairman Jackson.

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

\*\* GRN \*\*

CRC NO: 97-0801

DESC:

MAINE YANKEE CABLE SEPARATION

ROUTING:

Callan  
Thadani  
Thompson  
Norry  
Blaha  
Burns  
Miller, RI

DATE: 08/05/97

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NRR

Collins

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For Appropriate Action.

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ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: KRIS CHRISTINE  
AFFILIATION: MAINE

ADDRESSEE: CHAIRMAN JACKSON

LETTER DATE: Jul 30 97                      FILE CODE: IDR 5 MAINE YANKEE

SUBJECT: MAINE YANKEE CABLE SEPARATION

ACTION: Appropriate

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