

June 1, 2001

Mr. Ted C. Feigenbaum
Executive Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer
Seabrook Station
North Atlantic Energy Service Corporation
c/o Mr. James M. Peschel
P.O. Box 300
Seabrook, NH 03874

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - SEABROOK STATION REPORT
NO. 05000443/2001-001- REVISION¹

Dear Mr. Feigenbaum:

On May 9, 2001, the NRC staff completed its end-of-cycle plant performance assessment of the Seabrook Station. The end-of-cycle review for Seabrook involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period of April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility. We plan to discuss this assessment with you on **June 14, 2001**, in a meeting that is open for public observation at the Science and Nature Center at Seabrook Station.

Overall, Seabrook operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives. Plant performance for the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Therefore, we currently plan to conduct only baseline inspections at your facility through May 31, 2002. However, we note that we are still finalizing our evaluation of the significance of a failure of the "B" emergency diesel generator on November 1, 2000, discussed in Inspection Report 05000443/2000-011. This finding, which involved a failure to take adequate corrective actions for degraded equipment, may be of low to moderate safety significance (White) in the mitigating systems cornerstone. A White issue in that cornerstone would warrant additional NRC actions, such as issuing an Assessment Follow-up Letter, and a change to the inspection plan to include a supplemental inspection. We will complete the evaluation of this finding in the very near future and will provide you an updated inspection plan, if necessary.

Additionally, the staff has identified a potential adverse trend in the cross-cutting area of Problem Identification and Resolution, particularly as it relates to timely and effective resolution of

¹This is a change from the original meeting date of June 15, 2001, discussed in the Annual Assessment Letter, dated May 30, 2001.

degraded equipment. This performance issue is most notably illustrated by the emergency diesel generator failure, and a risk significant event on March 5, 2001, involving the loss of offsite power coinciding with the failure of the turbine-driven emergency feedwater pump. The loss of offsite power to the vital electrical buses was due to wet, salty snow buildup on the 345 kV bushings associated with the transmission system from the plant. This event revealed that corrective actions for a similar event in 1997 were not fully effective. Further, the turbine-driven emergency feedwater pump failed to run during this event, complicating the operator response actions to the plant transient. It was determined that the pump failed because Seabrook did not implement appropriate corrective actions after a similar pump failure in 1996. The inconsistent pursuit and resolution of degraded equipment represents a substantive cross-cutting issue with respect to effective implementation of your corrective action program. The NRC will focus on this area during the baseline inspection in the area of Problem Identification and Resolution, as well as any supplemental inspection that may occur after we finalize our evaluation of the above-mentioned diesel generator failure.

For your information, the NRC is in the process of aligning the inspection and assessment cycle with the calendar year. In order to transition to a calendar year cycle (January 1- December 31), the next inspection and assessment cycle will consist of only three quarters (i.e. the second, third and fourth calendar quarters of CY 2001). As a result, a quarterly review will be conducted for the third calendar quarter (July 1- September 30) in lieu of a mid-cycle review. The impact on the inspection plan, which is included as enclosure 1, is minimal.

Enclosure 1 details the scheduled inspections that will occur through May 31, 2002. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for scheduling conflicts and personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room). Our assessment process and terminology are further described in the NRC Reactor Oversight Process Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/index.html>

Mr. Ted C. Feigenbaum

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If circumstances arise which cause us to change this inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact Mr. Curtis Cowgill at 610-337-5233 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard V. Crlenjak
Deputy Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 05000443
License No: NPF-86

Enclosure: Seabrook Station Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl:

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NAME	Dentel/RJS	Cowgill/CJC1	Crlenjak/RVC		
DATE	06/01/01	06/01/01	06/01/01		

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Seabrook
Inspection / Activity Plan
06/01/2001 - 05/31/2002

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	71130	- SECURITY	1			
1	IP 7113001	Access Authorization Program (Behavior Observation Only)		06/25/2001	06/29/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7113002	Access Control (Search of Personnel, Packages, and Vehicles: Identification and Authorizatio		06/25/2001	06/29/2001	Baseline Inspections
	7112102	- OCC RAD SAFETY	1			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		08/27/2001	08/31/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		08/27/2001	08/31/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		08/27/2001	08/31/2001	Baseline Inspections
	71152	- PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION & RESOLUTION	3			
1	IP 71152	Identification and Resolution of Problems		09/10/2001	09/14/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71152	Identification and Resolution of Problems		09/24/2001	09/28/2001	Baseline Inspections
	7112203	- REMP	1			
1	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program		10/22/2001	10/26/2001	Baseline Inspections
	7112102	- OCC RAD SAFETY - CALIBRATION	1			
1	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation		10/29/2001	11/02/2001	Baseline Inspections
	7111111B	- LIC OPER RQ INSP	2			
1	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification		11/05/2001	11/09/2001	Baseline Inspections
	71114	- EP PRGM REVIEW & PI	1			
1	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing		11/05/2001	11/09/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111403	Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing		11/05/2001	11/09/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		11/05/2001	11/09/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies		11/05/2001	11/09/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		11/05/2001	11/09/2001	Baseline Inspections
	7111105T	- FIRE PROTECTION	3			
1	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection		04/08/2002	04/12/2002	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection		04/22/2002	04/26/2002	Baseline Inspections
	7112201	- PUB RAD SAFETY - RETS	1			
1	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		03/04/2002	03/08/2002	Baseline Inspections
	7111117B	- MODS	3			
1	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		03/11/2002	03/15/2002	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111117B	Permanent Plant Modifications		03/11/2002	03/15/2002	Baseline Inspections
	7112103	- OCC RAD SAFETY - ALARA	1			
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		03/25/2002	03/29/2002	Baseline Inspections
	7112102	- OCC RAD SAFETY - ALARA	1			
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		05/20/2002	05/24/2002	Baseline Inspections

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.