

IN RESPONSE, PLEASE
REFER TO: M911022

November 8, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR: James M. Taylor
Executive Director for Operations

David A. Ward, Chairman
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards

FROM: Samuel J. Chilk, Secretary /S/

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - BRIEFING ON STATUS OF
YANKEE ROWE (SECY-91-331), 2:00 P.M.,
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1991, COMMISSIONERS'
CONFERENCE ROOM, ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH,
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND (OPEN TO PUBLIC
ATTENDANCE)

The Commission was briefed by the NRC staff, the Union of Concerned Scientists, and Yankee Rowe on the status of the vessel embrittlement issues.

Based on the licensee's letter to Dr. Murley dated October 25, 1991, the Commission understands that the utility will not seek a short-term restart of the Yankee Rowe plant.

The staff should continue to work with the licensee to assure that all the information needed for plant restart once the inspection and sampling process is completed will be available for timely staff review. The staff should assure, to the extent feasible, that the licensee is aware of the type and amount of information that will be required well in advance of the initiation of data collection or calculational programs. The staff should take the following approach:

- o Continue to work to develop a sound technical basis for the fracture mechanics model regarding issues such as flaw density and distribution in the weld and plate material;
- o Evaluate the applicability of present and future irradiation test data to assess the degree of embrittlement of the Yankee Vessel plate material;
- o Establish technically-based criteria for restart;
- o Continue to work closely with the licensee to explore further issues such as main coolant pump reliability, flaw

aspect ratios, annealing, and ECCS tank temperature;

- o Provide the licensee with timely feedback on their proposed methodology for inspection and sampling of the reactor vessel;
- o Staff should continue the pursuit of technical matters (that might be important at a later date in connection with a license renewal application) beyond the point required merely for restart.

The staff should continue to work closely with Yankee Rowe in a spirit of openness to resolve the issues it requires for reopening the plant after its 1992 refueling outage. The staff should evaluate additional information proffered by the licensee to address these matters on a priority basis. The staff should advise the Commission on a monthly basis of progress on the resolution of these issues.

(EDO) (SECY Suspense: 12/13/91 and then monthly)

The ACRS should remain abreast of the status of Yankee Rowe in order to be in position to advise the Commission in a timely manner on future actions as they develop.

(EDO/ACRS) (SECY Suspense: 11/15/91)

cc: The Chairman
Commissioner Rogers
Commissioner Curtiss
Commissioner Remick
OGC
GPA
OIG
ACRS
PDR - Advance
DCS - P1-24