

New Hampshire Yankee

Ted C. Feigenbaum
President and
Chief Executive Officer

NYN- 91058

April 15, 1991

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Attention: Document Control Desk

References: Facility Operating License No. NPF-86, Docket No. 50-443

Subject: Siren Pole Restoration in Massachusetts Portion of the Seabrook EPZ

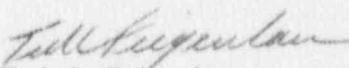
Gentlemen:

On March 6, 1991 the Governor of Massachusetts issued an Executive Order directing the Commonwealth agencies for emergency response to ensure the establishment of an effective warning and notification system in the Massachusetts portion of the Seabrook Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ). In addition, the Executive Order encouraged the six Massachusetts communities in the Seabrook EPZ to establish a warning and notification system. New Hampshire Yankee (NHY) has been approached by several of these Massachusetts communities and by the Massachusetts Civil Defense Agency regarding the re-installation of pole-mounted public alert notification system sirens. These pole-mounted sirens will replace the current Vehicular Alert and Notification System (VANS). NHY views such a system of fixed sirens as an improvement over the VANS system.

In an effort to facilitate the above stated siren transition process, NHY has drafted a proposed Siren Transition Plan (Enclosure 1). This plan delineates the process for installing pole-mounted sirens and deactivating the VANS system while maintaining the required siren coverage. It is requested that you review the enclosed and notify us regarding your concurrence with the proposed Siren Transition Plan.

If you have any questions regarding the foregoing or require additional information, please contact Mr. Robert R. Boyd, at (603) 474-9521, extension 2417.

Very truly yours,


Ted C. Feigenbaum

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SIREN TRANSITION PLAN

The following delineates the process for installing pole-mounted sirens in the Massachusetts portion of the Seabrook Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) and deactivating the Vehicular Alert and Notification System (VANS).¹ Replacement of the VANS system with pole-mounted sirens in selected locations will maintain the ability to provide public alerting throughout the Seabrook EPZ as required by 10CFR50.47(b)(5) and Appendix E.

New Hampshire Yankee (NHY) intends to install pole-mounted sirens, on a town-by-town basis, provided that the following criteria are met:

1. Installation of pole-mounted sirens and the subsequent removal of VANS sirens from that coverage area will continue to provide at least sixty (60) dBC in all inhabited areas throughout the Seabrook EPZ. Geographic areas where sound contour levels are less than (60) dBC will continue to receive a siren signal of at least (10) dBC greater than the average daytime ambient sound level.
2. All areas previously designated as "densely populated" areas (greater than 2000 people per square mile) will continue to be covered with at least seventy (70) dBC.
3. No change will be made in the NHY Offsite Response Organization (ORO) activation procedure from the Emergency Operations Center (e.g., all pole-mounted sirens must activate simultaneously with any remaining VANS units and with a common activation signal).²

NHY will proceed with the installation of pole-mounted sirens when the necessary zoning and statutory preparations are completed with the respective city or town. The process of establishing a firm legal foundation for siren pole installation and maintenance will begin in parallel with identifying the optimum siren locations. NHY will work with local communities and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to ensure that appropriate statutes, ordinances, and/or permits are in place. As these actions are completed, NHY will notify the NRC and FEMA of the intended siren conversions in each community.

The conversion process from VANS to pole-mounted sirens will be undertaken only after

¹The current Public Alert and Notification System consists of sixteen vehicle-mounted sirens dispatched to pre-designated acoustic locations when needed for public alerting. This system was developed by New Hampshire Yankee (NHY) and implemented when NHY was forced to remove the pole mounted sirens.

²At such time as the ORO is replaced by a Commonwealth of Massachusetts emergency response organization, changes in the public alerting program may be necessary; however, such action will be addressed as a separate issue at that time.

verification of adequate acoustical coverage by Wyle Laboratories using the same model used for the pole-mounted siren system in New Hampshire and for the current VANS system used in Massachusetts. The analysis will include all pole-mounted sirens and all VANS sirens that are not being replaced by pole-mounted sirens at that time. The resultant coverage will be graphically represented on a map of the Massachusetts EPZ with the 60 dBC and 70 dBC coverage areas shown. As confirmatory coverage analyses are completed by Wyle Laboratories, NHY will submit a copy of the coverage maps to the NRC and FEMA for their information.

Having verified that the required coverage will be provided, NHY will install an appropriate combination of Whelen Model WS-3000 and WS-4000 sirens. The installation of poles and sirens will be similar in materials and procedures to the installation of poles in New Hampshire. Siren control will be maintained at the ORO Emergency Operations Center (EOC) as is currently the case for the VANS sirens. In addition, local control of the sirens within a particular municipality will be provided to local emergency management. Such control will provide a backup activation capability to the ORO EOC.

Following installation, each siren will be individually checked for proper operation. Additionally, all sirens installed in a particular community will be simultaneously tested from both the local (community) and remote (ORO EOC) consoles. This test will verify proper siren response to activation signals initiated from these consoles. Results of the individual and simultaneous tests will be documented and made available to the NRC and FEMA.

As VANS coverage is replaced by pole-mounted siren coverage, the respective VANS units will be removed from the field. No VANS units will be removed that would result in an area within the Massachusetts EPZ being left without the requisite acoustic coverage. Backup VANS equipment will also be removed from service consistent with our current backup ratio (four backup units for sixteen in-service units, or a 1:4 ratio). Similarly, the ratio of VANS units available to cover maintenance will be maintained at 1:8.

An addendum to the REP-10 Design Report will be prepared following conversion to pole-mounted sirens in all communities.

Siren Transition Plan

