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The Seacoast Anti-Pollution League

Founded 1969

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PORTSMOUTH, NH 03802

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August 13, 1996

Albert W. DeAgazio, Project Mgr.
Project Directorate I-4
Division of Reactor Projects
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

John R. White, Chief
Radiation Safety Branch
Division of Reactor Safety
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1415

Re: C-10 Radiological Monitoring System Findings of 11/29/95

Dear Messrs. DeAgazio and White:

The Seacoast Anti-Pollution League has some questions concerning the above-referenced matter that are raised by the 5/23/96 letter and accompanying attachments sent from Thomas T. Martin, NRC to James R. Milkey of the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, by NRC Special Inspection 50-443/96-05 dated 6/25/96, and by Attachment 1 (Radiation Protection Inspection) to NRC Inspection Report No. 50-443/95-15 dated 2/8/96.

We ask for your answers to the following:

1) Does NRC interpret the requirement, contained in Technical Specifications, Seabrook Station, Unit 1, that there be compensatory monitoring when the Wide Range Gas Monitor (WRGM) is inoperable, to allow the licensee deliberately to initiate and/or continue a containment purge when the WRGM is in that inoperable condition? If so, for how long has the NRC interpreted technical specifications for Seabrook Station in this manner? Does the NRC know of any other instances, in addition to the instance occurring on 11/29/95, when the licensee has deliberately initiated and/or continued releases of either liquid or gaseous radioactive effluents when monitoring equipment, required to be operable by the technical specifications, was not functioning per those specifications? If yes, please provide information on the dates, times of day and circumstances of each such instance.

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2) When did the NRC find out that the thermoluminescent dosimeter (TLD) at Station 5 (referenced in Enclosure 4 of the letter to Mr. Milkey of 5/23/95 mentioned above), which had been at 1.2 miles from the plant at Azimuth 243 degrees, was "missing" and that there was "no net data"? Does the NRC have any explanation as of today's date for how the equipment disappeared? Has the NRC initiated any investigation into the cause of the disappearance? Has this matter been referred to the FBI or any other federal, state, or local authorities for investigation?

3) NRC Special Inspection 50-443/96-05 at p. 4 references the "maintenance of fuel clad integrity during the operating cycle" as reason for the unavailability of Kr-85 for release. Were there any inspections for fuel clad damage in the wake of the two episodes of exceedance of thermal power which occurred in October 1995? If yes, please provide details on the scope and nature of the inspections.

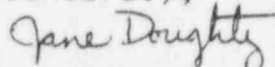
4) What explanation was given by the licensee for the decision to take Seabrook Station off-line for refueling in early November of 1995 before an 18 month operational cycle had been completed?

5) To what does the NRC attribute the "considerably more exposure than expected" to plant personnel that caused the licensee to defer inspection of the reactor head funnel guide until the next refueling outage (see Inspection Report No. 50-443/95-15 at A1-3).

6) Why was there no sampling for entrained noble gases during and immediately following the period of time spent fuel was being offloaded into the spent fuel pool? (see Inspection Report 50-443/96-05 at p. 3) At what time of day were samples collected on 11/29/95 taken?

We look forward to receiving your reply to these questions and thank you in advance for your cooperation in providing them.

Sincerely,



Jane Doughty

Via Certified Mail

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cc: Commissioner Shirley Jackson
Office of the Inspector General, NRC
C-10
We The People
NECNP
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