

Title: Haddam Neck Nuclear Generating Station

Alleged Willful Violation of Technical Specifications Concerning Rod
Insertion Limits

Licensee:

Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power
Company

Case Number: Q-1-85-017


Report Date: November 12, 1985

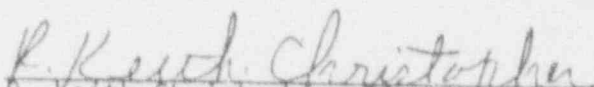
Control Office: OI:RI

Status: Closed Inquiry

Reported By:

Approved By:


Leo J. Norton, Investigator
Office of Investigations
Field Office, Region I


R. Keith Christopher, Director
Office of Investigations
Field Office, Region I

Information in this record was deleted
in accordance with the Freedom of Information
Act, exemptions b1, 7c & 7D
FOIA- 92-143

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PDR FOIA
GUILD92-163 PDR

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b1, 7c & 7D portions

A-6

[redacted] said that [redacted] had mentioned this in a telephone conversation with [redacted] at [redacted] thought that it was possible that [redacted] had misinterpreted [redacted] comments to mean that Technical Specifications were being intentionally violated. [redacted] said that it was really a question of how you interpreted the Technical Specifications. [redacted] said that [redacted] considered it a poor practice to be outside of the rod insertion limits for even 10 or 15 minutes, even though this was permitted by the Technical Specification. [redacted] said that as far as [redacted] knew, there had never been a chart recorder for tracking rod insertions, and [redacted] had no knowledge of anyone intentionally turning off plant instrumentation to conceal data.

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Closure Information

The results of the [redacted] interview were discussed at an allegation panel meeting on August 19, 1985. (Exhibit 2) Based upon the information provided by OI, the panel decided to close this allegation. Since this Inquiry failed to develop any evidence of wrongdoing in connection with the intentional violation of Technical Specifications at Haddam Neck, this matter is closed. No further investigative effort will be expended by this office.

DETAILS OF INQUIRY

Purpose of Inquiry

This Inquiry was initiated based upon a request from Thomas MURLEY, Regional Administrator, Region I to interview an individual who was reported to have knowledge of the willful violation of Technical Specifications at the Haddam Neck Nuclear Power Station. (Exhibit 1) The willful violations allegedly involved the intentional disregarding of the control rod insertion limits (RIL) during power descension.

Background

On August 13, 1985, Kenneth FERLIC, Project Engineer, Region I, was told by [REDACTED] at Maine Yankee Nuclear Generating Station, that an individual whom [REDACTED] refused to identify had informed [REDACTED] that the Haddam Neck Technical Specification governing rod insertion limits was being intentionally violated. On the following day, [REDACTED] reiterated the same allegation to FERLIC and added that chart recorders in the control room were being turned off in order to hide the fact that the rod insertion limits were being exceeded. In a telephone conversation on [REDACTED] with NRC Region I and OI personnel, [REDACTED] identified the individual who told [REDACTED] about the intentional violation of the rod insertion limits as [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] also said that the only information [REDACTED] knew of concerning the matter was furnished to [REDACTED] by [REDACTED].

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Interview of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed by Investigator Leo J. NORTON in the presence of Senior Resident Inspector Paul SWETLAND at the [REDACTED] (Exhibit 3) [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] had no knowledge of any willful violations of Technical Specifications or operating procedures and did not have any knowledge of any attempts to conceal information by turning off chart recorders or any other plant instrumentation.

[REDACTED] was told that some information had come to the NRC's attention that [REDACTED] had knowledge of the intentional violation of Technical Specifications in relation to exceeding the control rod group insertion limits. [REDACTED] acknowledged that [REDACTED] had heard from some operator trainees that one shift supervisor would ignore the "elbow" (Exhibit 4) in the rod insertion limits and, instead of borating, would "drive through" the elbow. This would result in the rods being inserted beyond the Technical Specifications for that power level for anywhere from 10 to 15 minutes. However, since the Technical Specification itself permitted the control rod group to be inserted beyond the insertion limits for up to two hours without taking compensatory measures, this was not in actuality a violation of the Technical Specification. [REDACTED]

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