

June 19, 1985

Docket No. 50-309

Mr. J. B. Randazza
Executive Vice President
Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company
83 Edison Drive
Augusta, Maine 04336

Dear Mr. Randazza:

SUBJECT: THERMAL SHIELD INSPECTION AND REPAIR - NEUTRON NOISE
AND LOOSE PARTS MONITORING

Reference: Letter-Report, G. D. Whittier to J. R. Miller,
"1984 Refueling Outage Thermal Shield Repair",
dated September 14, 1984

We have reviewed the referenced report on Maine Yankee thermal shield repairs during the 1984 outage and thermal shield operation and surveillance.

Maine Yankee was the first Combustion Engineering (CE) plant to encounter distress with the thermal shield to core barrel support system. It was initially believed that the problem consisted solely of three missing upper positioning pins. The problem was evaluated and operation continued with no repairs performed.

In light of later much more severe problems in this area in other CE plants, you decided to perform more thorough examinations and repairs, if necessary. The examinations disclosed no thermal shield or core barrel cracking as had been observed at other CE plants but a number of upper and lower positioning pins were found to be not bearing upon the core barrel as had been designed. Repairs were performed and improvements made in noise monitoring, as well as a commitment made to reduce the next inspection interval for the core barrel assembly. A detailed description of the activities involved and the staff's evaluation is enclosed.

This evaluation is for your information. No response is required.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Edward J. Butcher, Acting Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #3
Division of Licensing

Enclosure:
As stated

See next page

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