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Release  
4734

July 30, 1996

The Honorable Shirley Ann Jackson, Ph.D.  
Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

Dear Chairman Jackson,

On behalf of Cotton Mather Cleveland, George Davis and myself, I want to express our great thanks for the time you spent with us recently to discuss issues at Northeast Utilities. You couldn't have been more generous with your time and efforts to help us make progress.

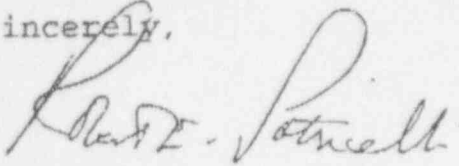
We hope that we were able to communicate to you our full engagement, as a Board of Trustees, in getting to the bottom of our problems and ensuring that corrective action is taken. We are very mindful of the issues you raised about how we monitor action to make sure that improvements are made and sustained.

We believe we have made a good start as a Board, working with senior management, to address key governance and organizational issues:

- we recruited Dr. E. Gail de Planque to the Board since we clearly needed more expertise on nuclear matters;
- the Chief Nuclear Officer was replaced;
- a Nuclear Committee of the Board was formed and is meeting every two weeks;
- that board committee has created a Nuclear Committee Advisory Team (NCAT) of experienced outside experts to analyze causes, help devise corrective actions and measurements, and act as a source of independent information and evaluation of progress;
- we have met with INPO and other industry officials to gain advice and help; and
- we have elected a "lead outside director" to help the Board carry out its responsibilities.

We know we have a great deal of work still to do that will take a long time and require sustained effort. We hope to be able to visit again with you, in perhaps six months, to report clear progress.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Patricelli

cc. Cotton M. Cleveland, George Davis, Bernie Fox

A/1

July 16, 1996.

Today:

- ① Review Chairman's DSE position & discuss with KCR. Check wording of SRM: "The commission approves...?"
- ② CR-96-127.

~~③~~ ~~CR-96-127~~

Est. for special

Courtesy call - Northeast Utilities Board of Directors  
Replaced chief nuclear officer - seeking new  
would have candidate

NEAT - chaired by George -----  
Includes Tom Hurley -

KCR - open communication with NRC esp at plant  
- deal with whistleblowers

Q - can SR meet communicate with SR staff at NRC  
- can Board visit commission - yes

KCR -

A/2