

50-309  
September 24, 1996

Mr. Patrick M. Sears  
Box 13  
Fairfield, Pennsylvania 17320

Dear Mr. Sears:

This letter is to acknowledge receipt of your Petition dated August 19, 1996, addressed to the Executive Director for Operations of the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The Petition requests that the NRC take action with regard to the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station and all users of the RELAP computer code for emergency core cooling system analyses. The Petition requests that the NRC fine Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company and Yankee Atomic Electric Company (YAEC) if records have not been kept in accordance with YAEC's computer code quality assurance procedures, and that the NRC inspect all users of RELAP and fine those users not operating within required computer code verification procedures.

As the basis for this request, the Petition states that: the May 5, 1989, statement of Steve Nichols of Maine Yankee that RELAP5YA was "operable" and would be used for subsequent reloads was false; no computer code inspections were performed by the NRC before a 1992 inspection at YAEC by you when you were an NRC employee and not again until 1995; you were told not to do any more computer code inspections; RELAP is widely used; RELAP has been shown to have serious deficiencies; and the RELAP problem is not confined to Maine Yankee but is endemic to the industry as a whole.

The Petition has been referred to me pursuant to Section 2.206 of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations. As provided by Section 2.206, action will be taken on your request within a reasonable time.

I have enclosed for your information a copy of the notice that is being filed with the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By  
WILLIAM T. RUSSELL

William T. Russell, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: Notice

cc w/encl: See next page

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\*See previous concurrence

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