

50-309



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 24, 1996

Ms. Maria Glen Holt
Citizens' Monitoring Network
Post Office Box 235
Bath, Maine 04530

Dear Ms. Holt:

I am responding to your letter of August 26, 1996, to the Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in which you requested that the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station be required to install on-line, continuous, automated gaseous and liquid effluent monitoring systems at the plant effluent release point sources. You also requested that the NRC staff consider isotopic monitors for gaseous stacks and liquid effluent points of release for all nuclear power plants. On July 15, 1996, you hand-delivered to Mr. Ellis Merschoff of the NRC staff a similar written request asking that the NRC require an isotopic stack monitoring system at Maine Yankee. The NRC staff was evaluating this request at the time it received your letter of August 26, 1996.

As you are aware, the NRC staff requires commercial nuclear power plant licensees to monitor radioactive effluents and to conduct an environmental monitoring program. The release of radioactive material to the environment is governed by the requirements of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 20 and 50 and by limits established in the licenses of facilities. In addition to the NRC requirements, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has also imposed dose limits for reactor facilities. In total, these requirements are structured to maintain the dose to members of the public from radioactive effluent releases to levels that are as low as reasonably achievable.

In accordance with NRC requirements, licensees must report plant discharges and results of environmental monitoring around the plant. Licensees are required to maintain records on the type and quantity of radioactive effluents discharged into the environment and to calculate the estimated dose that an individual could receive from the material released. Radioactive effluent releases and their associated doses are reported by licensees in the Annual Radioactive Effluent Release (ARER) reports, and radioactivity levels in various environmental media are reported in the Annual Radiological Environmental Operating Report (AREOR). The ARER report includes the amount of liquid and airborne radioactive effluents discharged and the calculated doses for the period of release. The AREOR gives the results of an environmental sampling and analysis program that is focused on the radiation exposure pathways specific to the given plant. The results of the AREOR are used to supplement the effluent monitoring program to ensure that potential impacts do not go undetected. The requirements for the ARER and the AREOR are

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detailed in the Maine Yankee Technical Specifications sections 5.9.1.6.1 and 5.9.1.5, respectively. Further, the contents of these reports are described in the Maine Yankee Offsite Dose Calculation Manual (ODCM). The licensee submitted these reports for 1995 to the NRC on April 29, 1996. These documents are available in the local public document room (Accession Number 9605030234).

As part of the quality assurance program for the measurements made for the environmental monitoring program, licensees are required to participate in an Interlaboratory Comparison Program. This program provides an independent check of the accuracy and precision of the measurements of radioactive material in environmental samples.

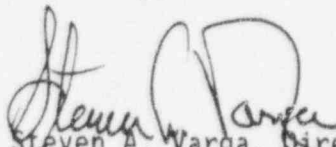
The NRC documents the results of its independent monitoring and assessment efforts in reports such as NUREG/CR-2850, "Dose Commitments Due to Radioactive Releases From Nuclear Power Plant Sites," and NUREG-0837, "NRC TLD Direct Radiation Monitoring Network." The NRC also compiles licensees' effluent reports and publishes the results in NUREG/CR-2907, "Radioactive Materials Released From Nuclear Power Plants."

With regard to Maine Yankee, inspectors from the NRC's regional office have conducted periodic inspections of Maine Yankee's effluent release and environmental monitoring program. On the basis of these inspections, the NRC staff has found that the licensee is maintaining effective programs that are in compliance with NRC requirements.

The process radiation monitoring system approved by the NRC for Maine Yankee provides, in addition to other functions, for the control and recording of discharges of radiological effluents into the environment. This system is described in the Maine Yankee Final Safety Analysis Report Section 11.2.2. The ARER and AREOR also contain details on the equipment, sampling and measuring techniques used. On the basis of its direct inspection effort, the NRC staff has reasonable assurance that the licensee is in compliance with the current regulatory requirements. Thus, the NRC staff has no justification to require Maine Yankee to install a stack isotopic monitoring system or any additional gaseous and liquid effluent monitoring systems as you requested. The current regulatory requirements for effluent monitoring are adequate to protect public health and safety.

I trust that you will find this information helpful in addressing your concerns.

Sincerely,



Steven A. Varga, Director
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

October 24, 1996

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Sincerely,

*See previous concurrence

Distribution:
See Attached

Original signed by:
Steven A. Varga, Director
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

PD1-3	DRPE	NRR	OGC	EDO	OCM
DDorman*	SVarga*	FMiraglia*	JGoldberg*	JTaylor*	SJackson*
10/10/96	09/16/96	10/10/96	10/10/96	10/17/96	10/24/96

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Ms. Maria G. Holt

- 4 -

DISTRIBUTION:

DOCKET (50-309)
(w/ original incoming)
PUBLIC (w/incoming)
EDO #GT96677
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NRR Mail Room (GT#96677
w/incoming)
SECY CRC-96-0946
OCA
OPA

ACTION

Pat
EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM:

DUE: 09/17/96

EDO CONTROL: GT96677

DOC DT: 08/26/96

FINAL REPLY:

Maria Glen Holt
Citizens' Monitoring Network

TO:

Chairman Jackson

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** PRI **

CRC NO: 96-0946

Russell

DESC:

ROUTING:

REQUEST THAT THE MAINE YANKEE ATOMIC POWER PLANT
BE REQUIRED TO INSTALL ON-LINE, CONTINUOUS,
ATOMATED GASEOUS AND LIQUID EFFLUENT MONITORING
SYSTEMS AT THE SOURCE

Taylor
Milhoan
Thompson
Blaha
HMiller, RI
Jordan, AEOD
Bangart, SP

DATE: 09/05/96

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NRR

Russell

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Put EDO and Chairman on for concurrence.
Chairman's Office to review response prior
to dispatch.

NRR RECEIVED:

SEPTEMBER 5, 1996

NRR ACTION:

DRPE:VARGA

NRR ROUTING:

RUSSELL
MIRAGLIA
THADANI
ZIMMERMAN
MARTIN
BOHRER

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

PAPER NUMBER: CRC-96-0946 LOGGING DATE: Sep 4 96

ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: MARIA G HOLT
AFFILIATION: MAINE

ADDRESSEE: CHAIRMAN JACKSON

LETTER DATE: Aug 26 96 FILE CODE: IDR-5 MAINE YANKEE

SUBJECT: REQ THAT MAINE YANKEE ATOMIC POWER PLANT BE
REQUIRED TO INSTALL ON- LINE, CONTINUOUS,
AUTOMATED, GASEOUS AND LIQUID EFFLUENT MONITORING
SYSTEMS

ACTION: Direct Reply

DISTRIBUTION: CHAIRMAN

SPECIAL HANDLING: SECY TO ACK

CONSTITUENT:

NOTES: OCM #5134 "CHAIRMAN SHOULD REVIEW RESPONSE PRIOR TO
DISPATCH" (ENCLS TO: EDO)

DATE DUE: Sep 18 96

SIGNATURE: DATE SIGNED:
AFFILIATION:

Rec'd Off. EDO
Date 9/5/96
Time 9:30 AM

EDO -- GT96677