

SEP 18 1985

Docket No. 50-443

Public Service Company of New Hampshire
ATTN: Mr. Robert J. Harrison
President and Chief Executive Officer
P.O. Box 330
Manchester, New Hampshire 03105

Gentlemen:

Subject: Inspection No. 50-443/85-20

This refers to the routine safety inspection conducted by Mr. A. Cerne and other inspectors of this office on July 8 - August 27, 1985 of activities authorized by NRC License No. CPPR-135 and to the discussions of our findings held by Mr. Cerne with Mr. Guillette and others of your staff at the conclusion of the inspection.

Areas examined during this inspection are described in the NRC Region I Inspection Report which is enclosed with this letter. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observations by the inspector.

Based on the results of this inspection, it appears that certain of your activities were not conducted in full compliance with NRC requirements as set forth in the Notice of Violation, enclosed herewith as Appendix A. These violations, have been categorized by severity level in accordance with the NRC Enforcement Policy (10 CFR 2, Appendix C) published in the Federal Register Notice (49 FR 8583) dated March 8, 1984. You are required to respond to this letter and in preparing your response, you should follow the instructions in Appendix A.

Item B in the Notice of Violation enclosed with this letter identifies a failure in your corrective action program relative to a construction deficiency reported under 10 CFR 50.55(e). It is noted that Item A also relates to a potential 50.55(e) deficiency, subsequently withdrawn as a reportable deficiency, and an apparent problem in effecting corrective action by way of design change detail implementation. While the adequacy of corrective measure controls has not been a problem in the recent past of Seabrook construction, the details of both violations and their apparent causes are of some concern because they both portend the potential for administrative weaknesses leading to uncorrected hardware deficiencies. Another common element in both violations appears to be an over-reliance on your QA/QC program to remedy problems in your design change control and inter-organizational communication channels. We trust that you will agree that regardless of whether the work procedures and in-process records correctly characterize the work as safety-related or not, installation in accordance with the approved design details is expected.

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We note that your letter (SBN-835) to Region I on July 10, 1985 provided clarification of your Final Report on the construction deficiency involving the diesel generator exhaust silencer pedestal cracking. While the hardware problems may not be fully corrected on this issue, as well as the limit switch bracket support problem, our concerns over the administrative, engineering, and construction controls which allowed incomplete and incorrect work to be installed remain. Consequently, your response to the Notice of Violation should include a discussion of not only your improved controls in these areas, but also your program for utilizing QA requirements for assuring, rather than implementing, quality work.

The responses directed by this letter and the accompanying Notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, PL 96-511.

Your cooperation with us in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Samuel J. Collins, Chief
Projects Branch 2, Division of
Reactor Projects

Enclosures:

1. Appendix A, Notice of Violation
2. NRC Region I, Inspection Report No. 50-443/85-20

cc w/encl:

John DeVincentis, Director, Engineering and Licensing
William B. Derrickson, Senior Vice President
Warren Hall, Operational Services Supervisor
Donald E. Moody, Station Manager - Seabrook Station
Gerald F. McDonald, Construction QA Manager
Public Document Room (PDR)
Local Public Document Room (LPDR)
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
NRC Resident Inspector
State of New Hampshire

bcc w/encl:

Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)
Senior Operations Officer (w/o encls)
DRP Section Chief
J. Grant, DRP

RD:DRP
Cerge/jc
9/12

DRP
9/12/85

DRP dlt
Collins