

January 24, 1997

Mr. Russell A. Mellor
Manager of Operations
Yankee Atomic Electric Company
580 Main Street
Bolton, Massachusetts 01740-1398

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-29/96-04

Dear Mr. Mellor:

On November 21, 1996, the NRC completed an inspection at your Yankee reactor facility in Rowe, Massachusetts. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

During the period covered by this inspection, your conduct of activities at the Yankee facility was generally characterized by safety-conscious operations and careful radiological controls. Within the scope of this inspection, you had in place effective programs for protecting the safety of workers during dismantlement and decommissioning activities, particularly during the reactor vessel removal project. Audits, appraisals and self-assessments continued to improve the quality of the radiation protection program. Your staff continued to perform good planning for decommissioning and dismantlement activities, including maintaining occupational exposures ALARA. Internal and external exposure controls were appropriate. Radiological surveys and monitoring were performed as required and contamination controls were very good. Facility tours indicated good housekeeping in contaminated areas. Engineering design changes were appropriately reviewed and did not involve an unresolved safety issue for three modifications. No major deficiencies or violations of regulatory requirements were identified.

Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

John White, Chief
Radiation Safety Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-29
License No. DPR-03

Enclosure: NRC Region I Inspection Report No. 50-29/96-04

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cc w/encl:

A. Kadak, President and Chief Executive Officer

K. Heider, Site Manager

R. Hallisey, Department of Public Health, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

T. Dignan, Esquire

B. Holmgren, Engineer/Licensing Manager

R. Sedano, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Public Service

T. Rapone, Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety

L. Stevens, New England Conference of Public Utilities Commissioners, Inc.
Citizens Awareness Network

D. Screnci, PAO (1) All Inspection Reports

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, SLO Designee

State of Vermont, SLO Designee

Mr. Russell A. Mellor

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