

50-304



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 3, 1997

Dr. Michael Herz
Head Tide
Alna, ME 04535

Dear Dr. Herz:

I am responding to your letter to Chairman Jackson dated December 20, 1996, in which you requested that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) use its oversight authority to protect Maine citizens by requiring Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company (MYAPCo) to look at all of its safety systems, ensure compliance with NRC regulations, and obtain NRC approval prior to restarting Maine Yankee.

Subsequent to the issuance of the Independent Safety Assessment team report in October 1996, the NRC staff has conducted numerous inspections to confirm compliance with NRC rules and regulations. Concurrently, the licensee is pursuing resolution of ISA findings. Recently, while conducting reviews associated with the NRC's Generic Letter 96-01, "Testing of Safety-Related Logic Circuits," the licensee discovered a separation problem with control wiring associated with the redundant trains of reactor manual trip push buttons. Conformance with certain industry electrical standards could not be verified and, thus, the licensee shut down Main Yankee on December 5, 1996, to resolve this safety concern.

On December 18, 1996, the NRC issued a Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) to MYAPCo, the licensee for Maine Yankee, documenting its agreement to undertake the following actions prior to restarting the facility:

- Complete testing of safety-related logic circuits pursuant to NRC Generic Letter No. 96-01.
- Develop a plan and methodology for expanding its review to determine the extent of the cable separation problems at the facility.
- Perform, root cause evaluations that will address all hardware deficiencies identified, and utilize this information to validate the comprehensiveness of its corrective actions.
- Meet with NRC representatives to describe the results and conclusions, as they pertain to the actions described above, and to gain the NRC's agreement that Maine Yankee is sufficiently prepared to restart the facility.

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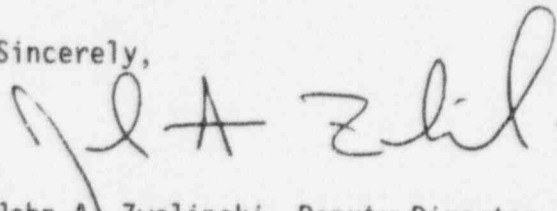
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Further inspections and licensing activities have revealed several additional technical concerns in the electrical and equipment qualification areas. These recently-identified concerns have been incorporated into a supplement to the CAL and will also be the subject of a public meeting between the licensee and the staff prior to plant restart.

The NRC will decide, prior to restart, whether the licensee's corrective actions provide reasonable assurance that the plant will be operated in a manner that will pose no undue risk to public health and safety in accordance with the Commission's regulations. I trust the above initiatives are responsive to your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J A Zwolinski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

John A. Zwolinski, Deputy Director
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

February 3, 1997

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Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

John A. Zwolinski, Deputy Director
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

*See previous concurrences

G:\G970003.LTR

PM:DRPE*	DD:DRPE*	D:DRPE*	ADPR*	D:NRR*	EDO *	OGC	OCM
BMozaferi	JZwolinski	SVarga	RZimmerman	FMiraglia	HThompson		SJackson
01/27/97	01/23/97	01/23/97	1/28/97	1/28/97	1/ 30 /97	1/ /97	01/ 31 /97
Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

DISTRIBUTION: for letter to M. Herz dated February 3, 1997 .

DOCKET File (50-309 w/original incoming)

PUBLIC (w/incoming)

EDO Reading (#G70003)

HThompson

SCollins

JBlaha

FMiraglia

AThadani

RZimmerman

TMartin

PDI-3 Plant (w/incoming)

SVarga

JZwolinski

MBoyle (email MLB4)

JMoore, OGC

HMiller, R-I

~~JBoyle~~, R-I *R. Conte*

OPA

OCA

CNorsworthy

Reinhart/Monafari
ACTION

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 01/15/97 EDO CONTROL: G970003
DOC DT: 12/20/96.
FINAL REPLY:

Michael Herz

TO:

Chairman Jackson

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** PRI **

CRC NO: 96-1286

Miraglia

DESC:

ROUTING:

MAINE YANKEE

Taylor
Milhoan
Thompson
Blaha
Miller, RI

DATE: 01/02/97

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:

NRR Miraglia

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

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

NRR RECEIVED: JANUARY 2, 1997
NRR ACTION: DRPE:VARGA

NRR ROUTING: MIRAGLIA
THADANI
ZIMMERMAN
SHERON
TRAVERS
MARTIN
BOHRER

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

PAPER NUMBER: CRC-96-1286 LOGGING DATE: Dec 27 96

ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: MICHAEL HERZ

AFFILIATION: MAINE

ADDRESSEE: CHAIRMAN JACKSON

LETTER DATE: Dec 20 96 FILE CODE: ID&R 5 MAINE YANKEE

SUBJECT: MAINE YANKEE

ACTION: Direct Reply

DISTRIBUTION: CHAIRMAN

SPECIAL HANDLING: SECY TO ACK

CONSTITUENT:

NOTES: CHAIRMAN SHOULD REVIEW RESPONSE PRIOR TO DISPATCH

DATE DUE: Jan 16 97

SIGNATURE: . DATE SIGNED:

AFFILIATION:

EDO -- G970003