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(207)586-5443 (Phone & FAX)

December 20, 1996

Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson
Chairwoman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Dr. Jackson:

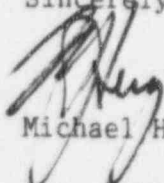
We are extremely pleased that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has acknowledged the seriousness of the most recently discovered problems at the Maine Yankee plant by requiring a root cause analysis and NRC approval prior to restarting. Citizens of Maine are increasingly concerned over the almost weekly discoveries of unsafe conditions at the Maine Yankee Nuclear Power Plant that are serious enough to require shutdowns. It is as though one need only look to find a safety-related problem at this installation.

Here in Maine our concern is that there hasn't been enough looking yet. Assurances by President Frizzle that safety is a major concern do not square with the fact that safety problems only seem to surface when outside inspectors look or direct Maine Yankee personnel to look for them.

That being the case, is the NRC planning to look or at least have Maine Yankee staff look at all wiring related to plant safety? What about looking at other systems that were not evaluated during the recent ISA inspection?

From the events of the past year, it is apparent that Maine Yankee management does not appear to have the will to direct their staff to look for problems without outside direction. It is the mandate of the NRC to be the oversight mechanism for compliance with regulations. Please use your oversight authority to protect Maine citizens by requiring that Maine Yankee look at all of its safety systems, determine they are in compliance and obtain NRC approval prior to restarting.

Sincerely,



Michael Herz, Ph.D.

cc: Senator Olympia Snowe
Senator Susan Collins
Congressman John Baldacci
Congressman Tom Allen
Attorney General Andrew Ketterer
U.S. Attorney's Office
Hubert Miller, Region I NRC Administrator