

November 5, 1996

Mr. Ted C. Feigenbaum  
Executive Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer  
Northeast Utilities Service Company  
c/o Mr. Terry L. Harpster  
P.O. Box 270  
Hartford, Connecticut 06141-0270

SUBJECT: NRC INTEGRATED INSPECTION REPORT 50-213/96-10

Dear Mr. Feigenbaum:

On September 23, 1996, the NRC completed an inspection at Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Company. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

During the six-week period covered by this inspection period, the conduct of activities at the Haddam Neck Station facility was generally characterized by efforts to transition from a maintenance outage to the early start of the cycle 19 refueling outage. The reactor was partially drained and vented when the reactor disassembly sequence was placed on hold on August 30. Several significant events occurred which challenged reactor cooling and inventory control: a through wall leak was identified on the inlet valve for the "A" residual heat removal (RHR) heat exchanger on August 30; and, on September 1 the operators discovered that about 5000 gallons of reactor coolant system (RCS) inventory was inadvertently drained when a nitrogen bubble accumulated in the reactor head, and the "B" RHR pump failed as the operator tried to start it.

The plant management and staff failed to appreciate the significance of the nitrogen bubble event and systematically under reacted to the event initially. These events were safety significant and revealed deficiencies in operations procedure quality, operator use of procedures, deficiencies in plant material conditions, inadequacies on work control, and poor plant staff sensitivity to the control of shutdown risk. These events revealed fundamental weaknesses and broad concerns in the overall conduct of operations of Haddam Neck. In a letter dated October 9, 1996, the NRC requested that you include the above issues in the corrective action plans prior to plant restart. Other NRC findings related to this event are described in NRC Inspection 96-80.

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Mr. Ted C. Feigenbaum

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

Sincerely,

**Original Signed By:**

John F. Rogge, Chief  
Projects Branch 8  
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 50-213  
License No. DPR-61

Enclosure:

1. NRC Integrated Inspection Report No. 50-213/96-10

cc w/encl:

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J. Thayer, Vice President - Nuclear Engineering and Support Recovery Office  
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Mr. Ted C. Feigenbaum

3

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