

# Maine Yankee

RELIABLE ELECTRICITY SINCE 1972

329 BATH ROAD • BRUNSWICK, MAINE 04011 • (207) 798-4100

March 3, 1997

MN-97-38

JRH-97-48

## UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Attention: Document Control Desk

Washington, DC 20555

References: (a) License No. DPR-36 (Docket No. 50-309)  
(b) Confirmatory Action Letter, dated December 18, 1996  
(c) Confirmatory Action Letter, Supplement 1, dated January 30, 1997

Subject: Cardox System

Gentlemen:

When the Maine Yankee Cardox system becomes inoperable, Section 12.5.1, Cardox System Operational Requirements of the Maine Yankee Fire Protection Plan, requires that the system be restored to operable status within 14 days or submit a Special Report to the Commission within the next 30 days outlining the cause of the inoperability and the plans for restoring the system to operable status.

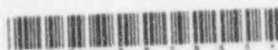
In 1996 Maine Yankee initiated an assessment of the plant's fire barrier penetration seals to ensure correct installation and proper configuration. In addition, Maine Yankee is assessing cable separation throughout the plant to comply with a Confirmatory Action Letter [reference (b)]. For personnel safety both in the Control Room and in areas with limited access, it is necessary to remove portions of the Cardox system from service under administrative controls to perform inspections of fire barrier penetrations and cables.

On January 17, 1997, the Cardox system in the protected cable tray room was removed from service to assess penetrations and inspect cables between the Control Room and the protected cable tray room. Compensatory measures were implemented in accordance with the Fire Protection Plan. These consist of establishing a roving fire watch to check the area at least once per hour and providing backup fire suppression equipment as required by the Fire Protection Plan. Manual fire suppression equipment is available in the affected areas as well as automatic smoke detection.

It is anticipated that portions of the Cardox system may remain out of service for several months while the assessment of the fire barrier penetration seals and cable separation continues.

Maine Yankee has been shut down since December 12, 1996.

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# Maine Yankee

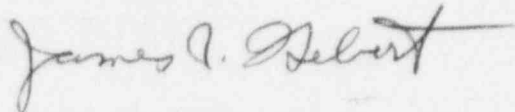
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MN-97-38  
Page Two

Maine Yankee will provide written notification to the Commission when the Cardox system is returned to operable status.

Should you have any questions regarding the above, please contact me.

Very truly yours,



James R. Hebert, Manager  
Licensing & Engineering Support Department

JRH/mwf

c: Mr. Hubert Miller  
Mr. J. T. Yerokun  
Mr. Daniel H. Dorman  
Mr. Patrick J. Dostie  
Mr. Uldis Vanags