

MAR 11 1986

Docket No. 50-29

Yankee Atomic Electric Company
ATTN: Mr. L. H. Heider
Vice President of Operations
1671 Worcester Road
Framingham, Massachusetts 01701

Dear Mr. Heider:

Subject: Yankee Licensing Examinations

Your letter of January 17, 1986 provided specific concerns regarding operator license examinations we administered in October 1985. The results of our staff review of your comments were forwarded to you on March 3, 1986 and we subsequently met in Region I to discuss your concerns on March 7, 1986.

Based upon my review of the written examinations and all the pertinent comments, I have concerns as to whether or not the examinations satisfied our standards in existence at the time. Based on today's standards, which are improved and more stringent, I do not believe the examination would be administered as is. Furthermore, I have serious concerns and reservations regarding the manner in which the examination was administered and reviewed on-site. Based on information developed by my staff during various discussions with the candidates and your training department staff, I do not believe that the situation was handled in a professional manner consistent with our examiner standards. This latter point in conjunction with an examination of marginal quality leads me to conclude that the candidates were not fairly examined.

After careful considerations, I have decided to exercise my discretion and invalidate the results of the October, 1985 written examinations. The written examinations currently scheduled for May, 1986 will constitute the written portion of the process for the license candidates. As a result, (1) a copy of this letter has been placed in the official files of each candidate's docket, (2) the invalidated examination and results are being removed from their files, and (3) a copy of this letter is being provided to each of the candidates in response to their appeal.

Notwithstanding the difficulties noted above, our follow-up inspection of your training program did identify weaknesses that warrant corrective measures. Accordingly, we encourage you to continue efforts to upgrade your training materials, and to implement your upgraded training program which conforms to the INPO approved guidelines.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Richard W. Starostecki, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

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cc:

N. N. St. Laurent, Plant Superintendent
J. E. Tribble, President
G. J. Papanic, Jr., Senior Project Engineer - Licensing
Public Document Room (PDR)
Local Public Document Room (LPDR)
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
NRC Resident Inspector
Commonwealth of Massachusetts (2)

bcc:

Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)
DRP Section Chief
M. McBride, RI, Pilgrim
W. Raymond, SRI, Vermont Yankee
J. Clifford, LPM, NRR
B. Boger, Chief, OL, DHFS
W. Russell, Director, DHFS


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