

February 9, 1976

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Docket No. 50-29

Yankee Atomic Electric Company
ATN: Mr. Robert H. Groce
Licensing Engineer
20 Turnpike Road
Westboro, Massachusetts 01581

RE: YANKEE-ROWE ATOMIC POWER STATION

As you undoubtedly know, the current shortage of offsite fuel storage space and fuel reprocessing capability has curtailed the ability of some operating reactor facilities to ship spent fuel to an offsite location. This situation will probably continue to exist for several more years. Consequently, spent fuel is accumulating in onsite spent fuel storage pools; and as the available onsite storage space is used up, more facilities will not have adequate capacity to discharge a full reactor core to the storage pool.

The capability to discharge a full core from the reactor vessel to the storage pool is considered to be an operational consideration rather than a safety problem. However, it should be noted that in some facilities, complete core unloading may be necessary to perform some of the required reactor coolant system inservice inspections. Thus, the inability to discharge a full core could preclude compliance with these inspection requirements and continued operation.

We suggest that you review the inservice inspection requirements in the NRC regulations and your Technical Specifications to determine whether they require discharging fuel, and review your schedule for performing these inspections in view of your projected fuel storage capability. If you find that your current inservice inspection schedules cannot be accommodated within your projected ability to discharge fuel, you should consider advancing your inspection schedules accordingly or taking other action to alleviate the problem.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS
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Sincerely,

Original signed by:
Robert A. Purple

Robert A. Purple, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #1
Division of Operating Reactors

cc: See next page

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SURNAME →	ABurger:lb	JWetmore	RAPurple	
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Yankee Atomic Electric Company

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cc: Mr. Donald G. Allen, President
Yankee Atomic Electric Company
20 Turnpike Road
Westboro, Massachusetts 01581

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