

WR Central Files

FEB 7 1973

Yankee Atomic Electric Company  
Attention: Mr. D. E. Vandenberg,  
Vice President  
20 Turnpike Road  
Westboro, Massachusetts 01581

Docket No. 50-29

Gentlemen:

Thank you for your letter of January 15, 1973 discussing the results of the valve wall thickness verification program at Yankee-Rowe (DPR-3) as requested in our letter of June 22, 1972.

We are not in agreement with your conclusion that five of the stainless steel reactor coolant loop isolation valves do not need to be verified since the other three meet ANSI B16.5, and the plant history records no failures. The fact that ultrasonic measurements were successful on three valves but unsuccessful on the remaining five concerns us. An ultrasonic technique for determining wall thickness in which only three of eight valves were measurable due to the variation in grain structure does not appear to have produced the required results. It may be necessary to develop an alternate method which will produce the dimensional data necessary to confirm the wall thickness of these five valves.

We will be pleased to discuss this matter further at a mutually convenient time, however, our requirements concerning verification of valve wall thickness remain firm and we expect that you will continue your efforts to provide reliable data which will support a conclusion that all of your reactor coolant isolation valves meet the applicable codes for cast stainless steel components. Please advise us within 30 days of your proposed program to accumulate this information.

Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

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James P. O'Reilly  
Director

RO Chief, Reactor T & Ops. Br.  
bcc: RO Chief, Reactor Construction Branch, HQ  
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Reinmuth O'Reilly