

May 20, 1999

Mr. T.C. Feigenbaum
Executive Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer
Seabrook Station
North Atlantic Energy Service Corporation
P.O. Box 300
Seabrook, NH 03874

SUBJECT: NRC TEAM INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-443/99-03

Dear Mr. Feigenbaum:

This letter transmits the results of the NRC team inspection conducted March 8 through March 26, 1999, at your Seabrook reactor facility. The team focused on your engineering activities and included an in-depth review of the primary component cooling water (PCCW) system. In addition, the team reviewed the fire protection program, several open items regarding measuring and test equipment issues, and a number of engineering activities involving the emergency diesel generators (EDGs), emergency feedwater (EFW), and service water (SW) systems. The preliminary findings were discussed with your staff on March 26, 1999, and in several subsequent telephone conversations concluding on April 8, 1999.

Overall, the team found that the PCCW system was adequately designed and being operated to perform its safety functions consistent with the requirements described in the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report and other design documents. Engineering generally provided good work products. The technical support for all modifications reviewed by the team and the risk ranking assessment of outstanding engineering work requests were good efforts. Some of the good engineering work to address plant problems was offset by the long time being taken to achieve permanent resolution of the issue. Multiple examples in this category included the EFW check valve backleakage, EDG vibration, SW vacuum breaker leakage, and PCCW system flow balance issues. The team also noted good implementation of the fire protection program.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that one Severity Level IV violation of NRC requirements occurred. This violation is being treated as a Non-Cited Violation (NCV), consistent with Appendix C of the Enforcement Policy. The NCV is described in the subject inspection report. If you contest the violation or severity level of the NCV, you should provide a response within 30 days of the date of this inspection report, with the basis for your denial, to the Nuclear regulatory Commission, ATTN: Document Control Desk, Washington DC 20555-0001, with copies to the Regional Administrator, Region 1, and the Director, Office of Enforcement, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

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Mr. T. 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 the enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

Lawrence T. Doerflein, Chief
Engineering Programs Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-443

cc w/encl:

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J. S. Streeter, Recovery Officer - Nuclear Oversight
W. A. DiProfio, Station Director - Seabrook Station
R. E. Hickok, Nuclear Training Manager - Seabrook Station
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D. Brown-Couture, Director, Nuclear Safety, Massachusetts Emergency
Management Agency
F. W. Getman, Jr., Vice President and General Counsel - Great Bay Power Corporation
R. Hallisey, Director, Dept. of Public Health, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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