



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

January 6, 2000

Mr. Samuel L. Newton
Vice President, Operations
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation
185 Old Ferry Road
Brattleboro, VT 05301

SUBJECT: COMPLETION OF LICENSING ACTION FOR GENERIC LETTER 99-02,
"LABORATORY TESTING OF NUCLEAR-GRADE ACTIVATED CHARCOAL" -
VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION (TAC NO. MA5858)

Dear Mr. Newton:

On June 3, 1999, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Generic Letter (GL) 99-02, "Laboratory Testing of Nuclear-Grade Activated Charcoal," to all holders of operating licenses for nuclear power reactors, except those who have permanently ceased operations and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel.

The purpose of the GL was to:

- (1) Alert addressees that the NRC has determined that testing nuclear-grade activated charcoal to standards other than American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) D3803-1989, "Standard Test Method for Nuclear-Grade Activated Carbon," does not provide assurance for complying with the current licensing basis as it relates to the dose limits of General Design Criterion (GDC) 19 of Appendix A to Part 50 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) and Subpart A of 10 CFR Part 100.
- (2) Request that all addressees determine whether their Technical Specifications (TS) reference ASTM D3803-1989 for charcoal filter laboratory testing. Addressees whose TS do not reference ASTM D3803-1989 should either amend their TS to reference ASTM D3803-1989 or propose an alternative test protocol and provide the information discussed in the requested actions.
- (3) Alert addressees to the NRC staff's intent to exercise enforcement discretion under certain conditions.
- (4) Request that all addressees send the NRC written responses on the implementation of the actions requested in this GL.

In GL 99-02, the NRC staff established the following four groups of plants:

- (1) plants in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with ASTM D3803-1989
- (2) plants in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with a test protocol other than ASTM D3803-1989

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- (3) plants not in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with ASTM D3803-1989
- (4) plants not in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with a test protocol other than ASTM D3803-1989

In response to GL 99-02, you provided a letter dated November 29, 1999, for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station. Associated with your response was a request for a license amendment to change your TS to provide for testing as described in the GL. The NRC staff has reviewed your response and has concluded that you have provided requested information and an acceptable TS change request. In addition you have committed to test in accordance with ASTM D3803-1989 until your TS amendment is issued. Therefore, we consider GL 99-02 to be closed for your facility. The TS change will be reviewed as a separate, plant-specific action under TAC No. MA5858. We thank you for your prompt and complete response.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (301) 415-1475.

Sincerely,

/S/

Richard P. Croteau, Project Manager, Section 2
 Project Directorate I
 Division of Licensing Project Management
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-271

cc: See next page

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