

DEC. 24 1992

Docket 50-271

Mr. Warren P. Murphy
Senior Vice President, Operations
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation
RD 5, Box 169
Ferry Road
Brattleboro, Vermont 05301-0169

Dear Mr. Murphy:

Subject: NRC REGION I EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS INSPECTION No. 50-271/92-19

Enclosed is the NRC report of the inspection of the September 2, 1992 Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (VYNPS) emergency preparedness (EP) exercise and of the EP program. The inspection consisted of inspector observations, interviews with personnel, and examination of documents. The inspection began with observation of the emergency exercise and associated activities, and included inspection of your EP program. The inspection was conducted from September 1-4, 1992. Follow-up on EP program considerations, including telephone discussions with members of your staff and review of additional materials provided by your staff, continued at the NRC Region I office through October 30, 1992. Discussions of our findings were held by the lead inspector, Mr. C. Amato, with you and your staff at the conclusion of the on-site inspection, and by telephone discussion on December 1, 1992. In addition, inspection findings were discussed by telephone with Messrs. R. Sojka and E. Porter of your staff by Mr. E. McCabe on December 15, 1992.

During the exercise, we noted that representatives of Vermont and other States within the ten-mile emergency planning zone were given frequent and detailed briefings at the Emergency Operations Facility. While this inspection did not include off-site EP activities we also noted that Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts simulated extensive protective measures.

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The inspectors concluded that your staff successfully demonstrated the ability to implement the emergency plan so as to protect public health and safety. Overall, exercise performance was assessed as acceptable. There were strengths in Simulator Control Room selection of the reactor shutdown process and in Emergency Operations Facility performance, but a weakness in Operations Support Center (OSC) performance was noted. That weakness (Report Detail 4.3) involved over-simulation of repair activities and failure of equipment repair personnel to follow relevant procedures. We noted that you and your staff also identified this weakness during your post-exercise critique. However, because we consider this OSC performance aspect significant, we request that, within 60 days of receipt of this letter, you provide us your assessment of that performance and of any actions you plan to take to address it.

We apologize for the delay in transmitting this report to you. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:
James H. Joyner

James H. Joyner, Chief
Facilities Radiological Safety
and Safeguards Branch
Division of Radiation Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure: NRC Region I Report No. 50-271/92-19

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cc w/encl:

D. Reid, Plant Manager
J. Thayer, Vice President, Yankee Atomic Electric Company
L. Tremblay, Senior Licensing Engineer, Yankee Atomic Electric Company
J. Gilroy, Director, Vermont Public Interest Research Group, Inc.
D. Tefft, Administrator, Bureau of Radiological Health, State of New Hampshire
Chief, Safety Unit, Office of the Attorney General, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
R. Gad, Esquire
G. Bisbee, Esquire
R. Sedano, Vermont Department of Public Service
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State of New Hampshire, SLO Designee
State of Vermont, SLO Designee
Commonwealth of Massachusetts, SLO Designee

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Region I Docket Room (with concurrences and IFS Forms)

DRS/EB SALP Coordinator

J. Linville, DRP

E. Kelly, DRP

H. Eichenholz, SRI - Vermont Yankee (w/concurrences and IFS Forms)

N. Perry, SRI - Yankee Rowe

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P. Sears, NRR

W. Butler, NRR

~~RI:DRSS
Amato/tmh~~

~~12/1/92~~

RI:DRSS
McCabe *e*

12/18/92

RI:DRSS
Joyner *Joyner*

12/24/92