

April 9, 1997

Mr. Donald Reid
Vice President, Operations
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation
RD 5, Box 169
Ferry Road
Brattleboro, Vermont 05301

SUBJECT: NRC INTEGRATED INSPECTION REPORT 50-271/97-02
NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Reid:

On March 8, 1997, the NRC completed an inspection at your Vermont Yankee reactor facility. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

As discussed in Section E1.2 of the enclosed report, a root cause evaluation of the mixing of electrical power supply neutral and ground wires in the advanced off-gas (AOG) system had not been completed during the on-site inspection by a representative of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulations. The neutral mixing problem and other wiring error problems appear to be limited to the AOG system, and they do not adversely impact AOG system operable. However, the full extent of this wiring control problem has yet to be determined and resolved. Without the completed root cause analysis, we are concerned that the identified non-safety related neutrals and grounds wiring problem may potentially involve safety related systems. Upon completion of your staff's evaluation of this issue, please provide us, in writing, your findings, corrective actions, and basis for assuring that those problems do not adversely impact safety related or important to safety systems. Also, we request that you provide us with a status of resolution of all of the AOG system wiring errors and, if not resolved, provide a date when these errors will be corrected.

Inspector review of the November 25, 1996 event involving the on-line de-energization of the 480V electrical bus No. 6 for preventive maintenance identified that your staff failed to implement the administrative control requirements for removing power supplies from service. This failure to implement the procedural requirements of Administration Procedure (AP)-0125 and Technical Specification 6.5 is a violation. Of particular concern to us was that this evolution was previously performed during unit outages and that more rigorous reviews were not conducted prior to conducting this planned activity at power. We viewed the shift supervisor's performance as the last line of defense which failed leading to this event and the maintenance and planning staff's failure as more programmatic.

This violation is cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation, and the circumstances surrounding the violation are described in detail in the enclosed report. Please note that you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

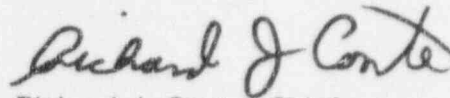
9704170132 970409
PDR ADOCK 05000271
G PDR



JE01/1

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practices," a copy of this letter and the enclosed Notice will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Conte, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 5
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. NRC Inspection Report 50-271/97-02

Docket No. 50-271

cc w/encl:

- R. McCullough, Operating Experience Coordinator - Vermont Yankee
- R. Wanczyk, Director, Safety and Regulatory Affairs
- G. Maret, Plant Manager
- J. Duffy, Licensing Engineer, Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation
- 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
- T. Rapone, Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety
- State of New Hampshire, SLO Designee
- State of Vermont, SLO Designee
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts, SLO Designee

Distribution w/encl:

Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)
 PUBLIC
 Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
 NRC Resident Inspector
 D. Screnci, PAO (2)
 R. Conte, DRP
 W. Axelson, DRA
 L. Harrison, DRS
 D. Beard, DRP
 L. Peluso, DRS
 D. Vito, RI, File No. 96-A0128

Distribution w/encl (VIA E-MAIL):

W. Dean, OEDO
 V. Rooney, NRR
 P. Milano, NRR
 R. Correia, NRR
 D. Taylor, NRR
 T. Koshy, NRR
 Inspection Program Branch, NRR (IPAS)

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\BRANCH5\IR9702R.CPC

To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the Box: "C" = Copy without attachment/enclosure "E" = Copy with attachment/enclosure "N" = No copy

OFFICE	DRP/RI	DRR/RI	DRS/RI	NRR	DRP/RI
NAME	COOK <i>DF</i>	KNUTSON	PELUSO	KOSHY <i>DK</i>	CONTE <i>DF</i>
DATE	04/09/97	04/ /97	04/ /97	04/8/97 <i>DF</i>	04/9/97

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

NA *NA* *Email*