

July 26, 1999

Mr. Drew B. Fetters
Vice President of Operations
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation
185 Old Ferry Road
Brattleboro, Vermont 05301

SUBJECT: NRC INTEGRATED INSPECTION REPORT 50-271/99-05

Dear Mr. Fetters:

On June 20, 1999, the NRC completed an inspection at the Vermont Yankee (VY) Nuclear Power Station. The enclosed report presents the results of this inspection.

During the six weeks covered by this inspection, your conduct of activities at Vermont Yankee was characterized by safe plant operations. Appropriate actions and compensatory measures were taken in response to problems identified with the Alternate Cooling System operating procedure. Overall, routine maintenance and surveillance activities were adequately performed. Some examples of poor work practices and informal work control were observed during Instrument and Control (I&C) maintenance activities. However, these issues did not appear to reduce the overall effectiveness of the maintenance. The implementation of your Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program was found to be effective.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that two Severity Level IV violations of NRC requirements occurred. These violations are being treated as Non-Cited Violations (NCVs), consistent with Appendix C of the Enforcement Policy. These NCVs involved an inadequate procedure for operation of the Alternate Cooling System and inadequate quality assurance controls for procured engineering services for a 1998 design change of the scram discharge volume valves. These NCVs are further described in the subject inspection report. If you contest the violation(s) or severity level of these NCVs, 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 I; and the Director, Office of Enforcement, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; and the NRC Resident Inspector at the Vermont Yankee facility.

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

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Clifford J. Anderson, Chief
Projects Branch 5
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No.: 50-271
License No.: DPR-28

Enclosure: NRC Inspection Report 50-271/99-05

cc w/encl:

R. McCullough, Operating Experience Coordinator - Vermont Yankee
G. Sen, Licensing Manager, Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation
D. Rapaport, 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
D. Lewis, Esquire
G. Bisbee, Esquire
J. Block, Esquire
T. Rapone, Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety
D. Katz, Citizens Awareness Network (CAN)
M. Daley, New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution, Inc. (NECNP)
State of New Hampshire, SLO Designee
State of Vermont, SLO Designee
Commonwealth of Massachusetts, SLO Designee

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