

September 13, 1999

Mr. Robert Wanczyk
Acting Director of Operations
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation
185 Old Ferry Road
Brattleboro, Vermont 05301

SUBJECT: NRC INTEGRATED INSPECTION REPORT 50-271/99-06

Dear Mr. Wanczyk:

On August 1, 1999, the NRC completed an inspection at your Vermont Yankee (VY) facility. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

During the six weeks covered by this inspection period, the conduct of activities at Vermont Yankee was generally characterized by safe plant operations. However, several problems were identified by the NRC that we consider should have been self-identified. Specifically, we identified two service water leaks from room cooling unit heat exchangers, a loose fastener on an emergency diesel (EDG) generator jacket water cooling flange, undersize bolts on the EDG turbochargers, and, in the area of radiological controls, several instances of conditions that could have led to the spread of contamination. While these individual issues were not safety significant, we considered that, together, they indicated that the area of in-plant problem identification warrants increased management attention. We noted that your initiative to form a multi-discipline team to perform detailed inspections of the EDGs and other safety significant systems was a positive step in this area.

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 involved failure to revise the limiting case analysis for containment depressurization to reflect a design change that was made to the torus-to-reactor building vacuum breakers during plant construction. The NCV is further 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 a 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 50-271/99-06

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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