

October 7, 1999

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

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-271/99-11

Dear Mr. Wanczyk:

On August 27, 1999, the NRC completed an inspection at the Vermont Yankee (VY) Nuclear Power Station. The inspection focused on the effectiveness of the engineering functions in providing for the safe operation of the plant. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection. The results were discussed with you, Mr. J. Hoffman and other members of your staff on August 27, 1999.

Overall, the team concluded that the engineering organization provided acceptable support to plant operations. We noted that the design change process procedures were appropriate, and that the quality of design changes, associated safety evaluations, and calculations was acceptable. We found engineering provided appropriate support in identifying corrective actions for plant events and that operability determinations were reasonable. We noted that the design bases reconstitution effort and the Final Safety Analysis Report Verification Program were effective and comprehensive. In addition, we determined your self-assessment program was effective in identifying areas for improvement.

The NRC has determined that a violation of NRC requirements occurred regarding the lack of cable separation in the upgrade modification of the residual heat removal (RHR) and core spray (CS) monitoring instruments to the RG 1.97 Category 1 criteria. This violation is being treated as a Non-Cited Violation (NCV), consistent with Appendix C of the Enforcement Policy. This NCV is described in the subject inspection report. You do not need to respond to the violation, but you may contest the violation or severity level. If you so choose, 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; 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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Robert Wanczyk

2

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

We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Lawrence T. Doerflein, Chief  
Engineering Programs Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

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

Enclosure: NRC Inspection Report 50-271/99-11

cc w/enci:

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  
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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

Robert Wanczyk

3

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