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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**NRC STAFF CITES VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION FOR
ALLEGED SAFEGUARDS Violations; PROPOSES \$75,000 FINE**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff proposes to fine Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation (VY) \$75,000 for alleged safeguards violations at the Vermont Yankee plant near Brattleboro, VT.

An NRC inspection was conducted at the plant on June 6 through 10, 1991, to look into the circumstances surrounding an event at the facility in May. The event involved the failure of the Central Alarm Station (CAS) Operator to respond to an alarm in accordance with Vermont Yankee's NRC-approved security plan. The NRC inspectors determined the CAS operator had made entries into the security computer, indicating he had taken the appropriate actions, but the NRC staff alleges that the CAS operator had actually not taken those actions. In addition, two Secondary Alarm Station (SAS) operators also failed to confirm that the proper actions had been taken.

In a letter to Vermont Yankee, Thomas T. Martin, Regional Administrator, NRC Region I, said "These failures represent a serious breakdown in a safeguards system designed to prevent unauthorized or undetected access to the protected area and collectively reflect a lack of attention by VY management toward licensed responsibilities." Mr. Martin went on to say "the NRC recognizes that disciplinary action was taken against the CAS operator, including time off without pay, and the two SAS operators."

The normal fine for such a violation is \$50,000. However, in this case, it was increased by 50 percent to \$75,000 because the licensee's corrective actions were inadequate.

VY now has 30 days to submit a written statement to the NRC admitting or denying the alleged violations, explaining the reasons for them, if admitted, stating the corrective actions which have been or will be taken, and the date when full compliance with NRC regulations was or will be achieved. VY also has 30 days to pay the proposed fine or to request that all or part of it be withdrawn.

The State of Vermont has been informed of this proposed enforcement action.

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