

June 8, 2000

Mr. Samuel L. Newton  
Vice President, Operations  
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation  
185 Old Ferry Road  
Brattleboro, VT 05301

SUBJECT: PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF SLIGHTLY CONTAMINATED SOIL - VERMONT  
YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION (TAC NO. MA5950)

Dear Mr. Newton:

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact related to your application dated June 23, 1999, as supplemented on January 4, 2000. The application requests to amend the previously granted approvals to dispose of slightly contaminated septic waste and cooling tower silt on-site by expanding the allowable waste stream to include slightly contaminated soil generated as a residual by-product of on-site construction activities.

The assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Richard P. Croteau, Project Manager, Section 2  
Project Directorate I  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-271

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

June 8, 2000

Mr. Samuel L. Newton  
Vice President, Operations  
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation  
185 Old Ferry Road  
Brattleboro, VT 05301

SUBJECT: PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF SLIGHTLY CONTAMINATED SOIL - VERMONT  
YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION (TAC NO. MA5950)

Dear Mr. Newton:

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact related to your application dated June 23, 1999, as supplemented on January 4, 2000. The application requests to amend the previously granted approvals to dispose of slightly contaminated septic waste and cooling tower silt on-site by expanding the allowable waste stream to include slightly contaminated soil generated as a residual by-product of on-site construction activities.

The assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Richard P. Croteau, Project Manager, Section 2  
Project Directorate I  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-271

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

**DISTRIBUTION:** ACRS                    C. Carpenter  
EAdensam                    OGC                    PUBLIC  
PDI-2 Rdg.                    T. Clark                    C. Anderson, RI  
J. Zwolinski                    R. Croteau                    J. Clifford

DOCUMENT NAME: C:\EAA5950.wpd

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	PD-I-2/PM	PDI-2/ LA	RGEB	IOHB	OGC	SC:PDI-2
NAME	RCroteau	TClark	CCarpenter	GTracy	RWeisman	JClifford
DATE	5/18/00	5/8/00	5/18/00	5/16/00	6/1/00	6/6/00

**OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION

DOCKET NO. 50-271

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering amending, pursuant to 10 CFR 20.2002, the previously granted approvals to dispose of slightly contaminated septic waste and cooling tower silt on-site by expanding the allowable waste stream to include slightly contaminated soil generated as a residual by-product of on-site construction activities as requested by Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation (the licensee), for operation of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (Vermont Yankee), located in Windham County, Vermont.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would amend the previously granted approvals to dispose of slightly contaminated septic waste and cooling tower silt on-site by expanding the allowable waste stream to include low-levels of radioactively contaminated soil generated as a residual by-product of on-site construction and other activities.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's request dated June 23, 1999, as supplemented on January 4, 2000.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is needed to dispose of slightly contaminated soil on-site. The licensee identified 25.5 cubic meters of soil to be disposed of on-site immediately, and approximately 28.3 cubic meters of soil/sand material on an annual basis until the expiration of the plant's operating license in 2013. The 25.5 cubic meters of contaminated soil was generated as a result of on-site construction activities. The anticipated 28.3 cubic meters of soil/sand material will be generated from the annual winter spreading of sand on roads and walkways at the plant site.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The NRC has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the proposed action will be bound by the conditions for the on-site disposals previously reviewed and approved by the NRC. The licensee will continue to use the designated and approved areas of their property (approximately 1.9 acres in size) that currently receives the septic waste and cooling tower silts. Determination of the radiological dose impact of the new material has been made based on the same dose assessment models and pathway assumptions used in the previously approved submittals. The licensee's proposal was evaluated against the NRC staff's guidelines for on-site disposal and found to be acceptable. The potential exposure to members of the general public from the radionuclides in material was determined to be less than 1 mrem/year, and meets the NRC staff's guidelines. Accordingly, the potential exposures are acceptable.

The proposed action will not significantly increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Accordingly, the NRC concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. As an additional alternative, the material could be shipped to an off-site low-level radioactive waste disposal facility. The costs associated with off-site disposal greatly exceeds the cost of on-site disposal without a compensating improvement in the environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative actions are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on June 8, 2000, the staff consulted with the Vermont State Official, William Sherman, of the Department of Public Service, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the NRC concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the NRC has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated June 23, 1999, as supplemented on January 4, 2000, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington DC. Publicly available records will be accessible electronically from the ADAMS Public Library component on this NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov> (the Electronic Reading Room).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 8th day of June 2000.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

***/RA/***

Richard P. Croteau, Project Manager, Section 2  
Project Directorate I  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station

cc:

Regional Administrator, Region I  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
475 Allendale Road  
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Mr. David R. Lewis  
Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge  
2300 N Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20037-1128

Mr. Richard P. Sedano, Commissioner  
Vermont Department of Public Service  
112 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2601

Mr. Michael H. Dworkin, Chairman  
Public Service Board  
State of Vermont  
112 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

Chairman, Board of Selectmen  
Town of Vernon  
P.O. Box 116  
Vernon, VT 05354-0116

Mr. Richard E. McCullough  
Operating Experience Coordinator  
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station  
P.O. Box 157  
Governor Hunt Road  
Vernon, VT 05354

G. Dana Bisbee, Esq.  
Deputy Attorney General  
33 Capitol Street  
Concord, NH 03301-6937

Chief, Safety Unit  
Office of the Attorney General  
One Ashburton Place, 19th Floor  
Boston, MA 02108

Ms. Deborah B. Katz  
Box 83  
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

Mr. Raymond N. McCandless  
Vermont Department of Health  
Division of Occupational  
and Radiological Health  
108 Cherry Street  
Burlington, VT 05402

Mr. Gautam Sen  
Licensing Manager  
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power  
Corporation  
185 Old Ferry Road  
P.O. Box 7002  
Brattleboro, VT 05302-7002

Resident Inspector  
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
P.O. Box 176  
Vernon, VT 05354

Director, Massachusetts Emergency  
Management Agency  
ATTN: James Muckerheide  
400 Worcester Rd.  
Framingham, MA 01702-5399

Jonathan M. Block, Esq.  
Main Street  
P. O. Box 566  
Putney, VT 05346-0566