

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION

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June 6, 2000
BVY 00-56

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

- References:
- (a) Letter, VYNPC to USNRC, "Vermont Yankee's Plans for the 1998 and 1999 Refueling Outages Regarding Reactor Vessel Internals," BVY 97-123, dated September 30, 1997
 - (b) Letter, VYNPC to USNRC, "Reactor Vessel Internal Plans for the 1999 and 2001 Refueling Outages," BVY 99-73, dated May 27, 1999
 - (c) GE SIL 554, dated April 6, 1993, "Top Guide Cracking"
 - (d) BWRVIP-26, dated December 1996, "BWR Top Guide Inspection and Flaw Evaluation Guidelines"

Subject: Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station
License No. DPR-28 (Docket No. 50-271)
Change in Inspection Plans for the Top Guide Grid Beams

In References (a) and (b), Vermont Yankee (VY) informed the NRC of our plan to continue performing the examinations recommended by GE SIL 554 to conduct visual inspections of top guide grid beams as they become available during the normal course of refueling operations. This letter serves to update you on our change in inspection plans. VY is discontinuing inspection of top guide grid beams until such time as the BWRVIP completes its recommendation for this component. Inspections in accordance with GE SIL 554 have been performed every refueling outage at Vermont Yankee since 1992 and no cracking has been identified.

GE SIL 554 [Reference (c)] was issued in response to cracking on the underside of top guide grid beams discovered at Oyster Creek in 1991. The cracking was theorized to be irradiation assisted stress corrosion cracking. BWRVIP-26 [Reference (d)] was written to address potential cracking in the top guide. The BWRVIP recommendations for inspection of the top guide grid beams have been deferred until metallurgical evaluations of samples from Oyster Creek are completed. BWRVIP-26 currently does not recommend any inspections for the grid beams.

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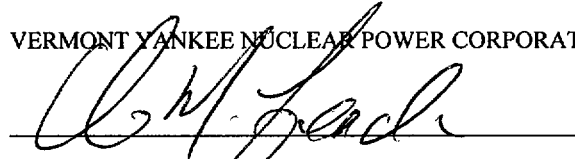
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VY will continue to follow vessel internals issues, including BWRVIP recommendations that result from the metallurgical evaluations of the Oyster Creek samples, and also the results of future testing at other plants. VY believes the past inspections have provided adequate confirmation of the structural integrity of this component pending the outcome of the planned BWRVIP activities.

Should there be any questions pertaining to this submittal, please contact Mr. Jim DeVincentis at (802) 258-4236.

Sincerely,

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Don M. Leach", is written over a horizontal line.

Don M. Leach
Vice President, Engineering

cc: USNRC Region 1 Administrator
USNRC Resident Inspector – VYNPS
USNRC Project Manager – VYNPS
Vermont Department of Public Service

SUMMARY OF VERMONT YANKEE COMMITMENTS

BVY NO.: 00-56

The following table identifies commitments made in this document by Vermont Yankee. Any other actions discussed in the submittal represent intended or planned actions by Vermont Yankee. They are described to the NRC for the NRC's information and are not regulatory commitments. Please notify the Licensing Manager of any questions regarding this document or any associated commitments.

COMMITMENT	COMMITTED DATE OR "OUTAGE"
None	N/A