

July 19, 2000

Mr. Samuel L. Newton
Vice President, Operations
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation
185 Old Ferry Road
P.O. Box 7002
Brattleboro, VT 05301-7002

SUBJECT: VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION - ISSUANCE OF
AMENDMENT RE: INSERVICE INSPECTION OF CLASS MC COMPONENTS
(TAC NO. MA9046)

Dear Mr. Newton:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 192 to Facility Operating License DPR-28 for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station, in response to your application dated May 22, 2000.

The amendment removes the Technical Specifications (TSs) surveillance requirement for visual inspection of suppression chamber coating integrity once each refueling outage. Future periodic inspections are required by ASME Section XI, Subsection IWE Inservice Inspection Program, in compliance with the schedule set forth in 10 CFR 50.55a.

A copy of the related Safety Evaluation is also enclosed. Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's biweekly Federal Register notice.

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

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 192 to
License No. DPR-28
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

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*See previous concurrence

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OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION

DOCKET NO. 50-271

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 192

License No. DPR-28

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment filed by the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation (the licensee) dated May 22, 2000, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;
 - C. There is reasonable assurance: (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations;
 - D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and
 - E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

2. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment, and paragraph 3.B of Facility Operating License No. DPR-28 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(B) Technical Specifications

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A, as revised through Amendment No. 192, are hereby incorporated in the license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications.

3. This license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance and shall be implemented within 60 days.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

James W. Clifford, Chief, Section 2
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: July 19, 2000

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 192

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-28

DOCKET NO. 50-271

Replace the following pages of the Appendix A Technical Specifications with the attached revised pages. The revised pages are identified by amendment number and contain vertical lines in the margin indicating the area of change.

Remove

146

166a

Insert

146

166a

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 192 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-28
VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION
VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION
DOCKET NO. 50-271

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated May 22, 2000, the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation (the licensee) submitted a request to amend the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (VY) Technical Specifications (TSs). The proposed changes were to technical specification (TS) 4.7.A.1 and the associated TS Basis to remove the surveillance requirement specifying a visual inspection of the suppression chamber interior each refueling outage. Future periodic inspection of this area will be performed in accordance with the licensee's American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (the Code) Section XI, Subsection IWE Inservice Inspection (ISI) Program in compliance with the schedule set forth in 10 CFR 50.55a. The licensee stated that the ISI Program provides more definitive inspection and acceptance criteria for primary containment examinations than those applied under TS 4.7.A.1.

2.0 EVALUATION

The proposed change would, in effect, replace the once-per-refueling-outage (~18-month) visual inspection frequency and general inspection guidance provided in TS 4.7.A.1 with the once-per-period (~40-month) general visual inspection schedule of 10 CFR 50.55a and the more definitive inspection and acceptance criteria of the ASME Section XI, Division 1, Subsection IWE, 1992 Edition and 1992 Addenda. In addition, the licensee stated that the Code-required VT-3 examinations will be completed once in each 10-year inservice inspection interval and a different segment of the containment surface will be selected for inspection each refueling outage under the program, such that all required inspections are completed within the specified frequency.

The licensee stated that this change will: 1) enhance the detection of corrosion that could potentially lead to a reduction in containment integrity; 2) preclude potential conflicts regarding interpretation of the inspection frequency requirements; 3) reduce redundant work and achieve radiation exposure reductions; and 4) provide an equivalent degree of confidence in the integrity of suppression chamber coating.

The staff has reviewed the proposed change and has concluded that it is acceptable because the periodic inspections of the suppression chamber containment surfaces required by ASME Section XI, Subsection IWE ISI Program and 10 CFR 50.55a are adequate to ensure that any

degradation of the coating, as it might affect the primary containment pressure boundary and structural integrity, will be detected and corrected.

The licensee also proposed corresponding TS Bases changes. The staff does not object to the proposed Bases changes.

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the Vermont State official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendment. The State official had no comment.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendment changes surveillance requirements. The NRC staff has determined that the amendment involves no significant increase in amounts, and no significant change in the types, of any effluents that may be released offsite, and that there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding (65 FR 37430). Accordingly, the amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b), no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of the amendment.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission has concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that: (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and (3) the issuance of the amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributor: R. Croteau

Date: July 19, 2000

Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station

cc:

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