March 27, 2001

Mr. Michael A. Balduzzi
Vice President, Operations
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation
185 Old Ferry Road
P.O. Box 7002
Brattleboro, VT 05302-7002

SUBJECT: VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION - ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT RE: 125-VOLT DC BATTERY SYSTEM (TAC NO. MB0366)

Dear Mr. Balduzzi:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 198 to Facility Operating License DPR-28 for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station, in response to your application dated October 25, 2000.

The amendment revises the 125-volt DC station battery system Technical Specifications (TS) Section 3.10.A.2.b to reflect the availability of a second, fully qualified battery charger, for each main station battery system.

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/

Robert M. Pulsifer, 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. 198 to License No. DPR-28
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station

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cc w/encls: See next page

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VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION

DOCKET NO. 50-271

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 198
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 October 25, 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. 198 , 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: March 27, 2001

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 198

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 marginal lines indicating the areas of change.

Remove	Insert
212	212
221	221

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 198 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 October 25, 2000, the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation (the licensee) submitted a request to amend the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (VY) Technical Specification (TSs). The licensee proposed to change TS 3.10.A.2.b to indicate that each 125 Vdc main station battery will have a dedicated second battery charger. The licensee stated that recent issues with cable separation and divisional power supplies to the current swing battery charger, used as a backup to both of the existing dedicated battery chargers, in certain configurations have resulted in putting in place administrative limits on its use. Conforming changes were also proposed for the associated Bases.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The objective of the 125 Vdc system is to provide 125 Vdc power for the operation of emergency equipment. This system consists of two redundant dc systems, each capable of independently supplying its required loads. The two safety-related Main Station batteries, A-1 and B-1, are sized to supply their emergency load for 8 hours without recharging. Each battery has an associated dedicated constant voltage, current limiting battery charger which is capable of supplying normal continuous dc load and maintaining a floating charge on the battery. These battery chargers also are capable of recharging the battery to full charge if it should become discharged to its minimum voltage. Currently, a standby or swing battery charger is used to backup either of the existing dedicated battery chargers for each battery. The swing battery charger can be manually switched to either A-1 or B-1 main station battery. The continuous dc load is supplied by the existing dedicated battery chargers which are connected to the dc buses during normal operation. The normal ac sources for the existing dedicated battery chargers are the 480 V emergency buses.

To resolve the cable separation and divisional power supply issues with the existing standby/swing battery charger the licensee is proposing to dedicate this existing standby/swing battery charger to one of the 125 Vdc battery systems and to provide an additional battery charger to the other battery system. This would result in two fully qualified safety class battery chargers available for each of the safety-related main station 125 Vdc systems. The licensee also states that providing a second charger to each system would allow greater flexibility for charger maintenance and testing.

3.0 EVALUATION

The dedication of the current standby/swing battery charger to one of the main station 125 Vdc batteries and providing a new charger for the other main station battery provides additional charging capability and is an improvement to the charging capability of these battery systems. The licensee states that the new battery charger and the existing standby/swing charger are both 125 Vdc, 150 amp, and safety-related as are the current battery chargers. Also, the seismic qualification, cable separation aspects, and their capacity are equivalent to the existing chargers.

The functionality of the battery systems will not change and since only one of the two dedicated battery chargers for each of the two 125 Vdc main station batteries will be connected to the bus at a time, the load on the 480 V emergency buses, which supply the power to these chargers, will remain unchanged. The new chargers will have their own input and output breakers, with the same capacity and features as the existing chargers and will be manually aligned to its unique battery system just as the current standby/swing charger is manually aligned to either of the battery systems.

This change would eliminate the swing configuration and provide an additional dedicated battery charger to each of the two main station 125 Vdc battery systems.

3.1 TS 3.10.A.2.b

Currently, TS 3.10.A.2.b states: "The two main station battery systems consisting of:" and is further broken up into 2 subsections. The first subsection, TS 3.10 A.2.b.1, states: "Battery A1, Battery Charger A and Bus DC-1"; and the second subsection states; "Battery B1, Battery Charger B and Bus DC-2." To identify the new main battery systems unique battery chargers the licensee proposes TS 3.10.A.2.b.1 to state: "Battery A1, Battery Charger A or C, and Bus DC-1"; and TS 3.10.A.2.b.2 to state: "Battery Charger B or D, and Bus DC-2." This change indicates that battery chargers A or C would be on the A-1 battery system and chargers B and D are on the B-1 battery system. This change provides an additional dedicated battery charger to each of the two 125 Vdc main station battery systems for greater flexibility in assuring the availability of charging capability as well as flexibility for charger maintenance and testing. Therefore, this change is acceptable.

3.2 Bases Section 3.10

Bases section 3.10 is proposed to be changed to indicate that there will now be two chargers for each battery system. The words, "In addition, the two 125 volt station batteries have a spare charger available." are being replaced with, "In addition, the two 125 volt main station battery systems have two chargers for each system. Either charger is capable of supplying its respective 125 Vdc bus." This change clearly identifies that each of the battery systems has its own two battery charges. The staff has no objection to this Bases change.

4.0 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 comments.

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendment changes a requirement with respect to installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. 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 77928). 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.

6.0 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: Robert M. Pulsifer

Date: March 27, 2001