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 - REVIEW OF REQUEST TO DISCONTINUE INTERGRANULAR STRESS CORROSION CRACKING INSPECTION OF RWCU PIPING WELDS OUTBOARD OF THE SECOND CONTAINMENT ISOLATION VALVES (TAC NO. MB0468)

Dear Mr. Balduzzi:

By letter dated November 3, 2000, Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation (Vermont Yankee) requested U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approval as an alternative measure to discontinue intergranular stress corrosion cracking (IGSCC) inspection of the non-nuclear safety-related, reactor water cleanup (RWCU) piping welds outboard of the second containment isolation valves at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (VY). The VY Technical Specifications 4.6.E state; "Inservice inspection of piping, identified in NRC Generic Letter (GL) 88-01, shall be performed in accordance with the staff positions on schedule, methods, and personnel and sample expansion included in the Generic Letter or in accordance with alternative measures approved by the staff." Vermont Yankee has been inspecting about 10 percent of the population of these welds every refueling outage. The licensee proposed to discontinue the IGSCC inspection of these welds based on meeting the following three criteria:

(1) Satisfactory completion of GL 89-10.
(2) No IGSCC detected in RWCU piping welds inboard of the second isolation valves (ongoing GL 88-01 inspection).
(3) No IGSCC detected in RWCU piping welds outboard of the second isolation valves after inspecting a minimum of 10 percent of the susceptible piping welds.

The bases provided by the licensee to support their request are summarized below:

(1) Vermont Yankee has implemented a GL 89-10, "Safety-Related Motor-Operated Valve (MOV) Testing and Surveillance," program. In NRC's Inspection Report (IR) 50-271/97-08, dated November 28, 1997, regarding Vermont Yankee's implementation of GL 89-10, it is stated that Vermont Yankee has adequately established a program to verify the design basis of safety-related MOVs.
(2) No IGSCC was detected in RWCU piping welds inboard of the second isolation valve. The subject piping and welds are made of IGSCC resistant low carbon austenitic stainless steel materials.

(3) A minimum of 10 percent of the subject welds were inspected during each of the 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1998, and 1999 outages. No IGSCC was detected.

A closure inspection for the purpose of verifying that VY completed its commitments to develop and implement a safety-related MOV program as described in GL 89-10 and its supplements was performed in May 1996 (IR 96-05) and in October 1997 (IR 97-08). The NRC staff verified that VY had completed all program actions as required by GL 89-10 and the staff review of the VY GL 89-10 program, therefore, had been completed.

Based on the staff's review of the licensee's submittal, the staff has determined that the licensee's request to discontinue the IGSCC inspection of RWCU piping welds outboard of the second containment isolation valves is acceptable, as an alternate measure, because it meets the staff's criteria as delineated above.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Robert M. Pulsifer, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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cc: See next page

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(3) A minimum of 10 percent of the subject welds were inspected during each of the 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1998, and 1999 outages. No IGSCC was detected.

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Based on the staff's review of the licensee's submittal, the staff has determined that the licensee's request to discontinue the IGSCC inspection of RWCU piping welds outboard of the second containment isolation valves is acceptable, as an alternate measure, because it meets the staff's criteria as delineated above.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Robert M. Pulsifer, Project Manager, Section 2
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Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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ACCESSION NO. ML010780094 *Input received on 3/12/01. No major changes were made

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Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station

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