

Docket

FEBRUARY 21 1980

Docket No. 50-271

Mr. Robert L. Smith
Licensing Engineer
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power
Corporation
25 Research Drive
Westboro, Massachusetts 01581

Dear Mr. Smith:

The Commission today has issued the enclosed Confirmatory Order for Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station. This Order confirms your commitment, as stated in your letter dated February 4, 1980, to install a recirculation pump trip during an outage scheduled to commence on September 26, 1980, or in any case, prior to operation in calendar year 1981.

A copy of this Order is being filed with the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

D. Eisenhower

for

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Confirmatory Order

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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 25 Research Drive
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Sincerely,

Harold R. Denton, Director
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
 Confirmatory Order

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DATE	2/6/80	2/8/80	2/7/80	2/21/80	2/21/80	2/29/80

Mr. Robert L. Smith
Yankee Atomic Electric Company

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cc:

Ms. J. M. Abbey
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power
Corporation
77 Grove Street
Rutland, Vermont 05701

Mr. Donald E. Vandeburgh
Vice President
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power
Corporation
Turnpike Road, Route 9
Westboro, Massachusetts 01581

John A. Ritsher, Esquire
Rope & Gray
225 Franklin Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

Laurie Burt
Assistant Attorney, General
Environmental Protection Division
Attorney General's Office
One Ashburton Place, 19th Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

New England Coalition on Nuclear
Pollution
Hill and Dale Farm
West Hill - Faraway Road
Putney, Vermont 05346

Mr. Raymond H. Puffer
Chairman
Board of Selectman
Vernon, Vermont 05354

W. F. Conway, Plant Superintendent
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power
Corporation
P. O. Box 157
Vernon, Vermont 05354

Brooks Memorial Library
224 Main Street
Brattleboro, Vermont 05301

John R. Stanton, Director
Radiation Control Agency
Hazen Drive
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

John W. Stevens
Conservation Society of Southern
Vermont
P. O. Box 256
Townshend, Vermont 05353

Dr. Mars Longley, Director
Occupational & Radiological Health
10 Baldwin Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

Richard E. Ayres, Esquire
Natural Resources Defense Council
917 15th Street, N. E.
Washington, D. C. 20005

Honorable M. Jerome Diamond
Attorney General
John A. Calhoun
Assistant Attorney General
State of Vermont
109 State Street
Pavilion Office Building
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

Anthony Z. Roisman
Natural Resources Defense Council
917 15th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20005

Mr. J. E. Griffin, President
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power
Corporation
77 Grove Street
Rutland, Vermont 05701

Mr. Robert L. Smith
Yankee Atomic Electric Company
(Continuation)

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cc:

Mr. Charles Sheketoff
Assistant Director
Vermont Public Interest
Research Group, Inc.
26 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

Public Service Board
State of Vermont
120 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

Director, Technical Assessment
Division
Office of Radiation Programs
(AW-459)
US EPA
Crystal Mall #2
Arlington, Virginia 20460

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region I Office
ATTN: EIS COORDINATOR
JFK Federal Building
Boston, Massachusetts 02203

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER) Docket No. 50-271
CORPORATION)
(Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power)
Station))

CONFIRMATORY ORDER

I.

Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation (the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating License No. DPR-28 which authorizes the Licensee to operate Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station at power levels not in excess of 1593 megawatts thermal (rated power). The facility is a boiling water reactor located at the Licensee's site in Windham County, Vermont.

II.

Over the past eleven years the subject of anticipated transients without scram (ATWS) events and the manner in which they should be considered in the design of nuclear power plants has been discussed extensively between the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Staff and the nuclear industry.

In April 1978, the Staff published a report on, "Anticipated Transients Without Scram for Light-Water Reactors", NUREG-0460, Volumes 1 and 2, which summarized technical considerations related to ATWS and made recommendations.

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Following additional investigations by the Staff and by the ACRS, the Staff issued Volume 3 of NUREG-0460, in December 1978.

Although final determination of all the design changes to nuclear power plants which may be necessary to respond to ATWS events has not yet been reached, the Staff has concluded that the addition of a Recirculation Pump Trip (RPT) in boiling water reactors (BWRs) would significantly limit the immediate consequences of an ATWS event. Therefore, letters dated January 9, 1979 were sent to the BWR licensees who did not have installed RPTs. These letters:

- described the reasons for requiring an RPT at this time,
- described two alternative ways to provide an acceptable RPT, and
- requested that licensees provide an RPT implementation schedule which would provide for installation within two years.

III.

Because an RPT provides considerable additional assurance that a BWR can safely respond to an ATWS event, I have determined that installation of an RPT by BWR licensees should be completed as soon as practicable and in no event later than December 31, 1980. In response to the letter of January 9, 1979, and additional discussions with the Staff, the licensee committed, by letter dated February 4, 1980, to installation of an RPT before reactor operation during calendar year 1981. I have determined that this commitment should be formalized by Order requiring that RPT installation be completed no later than December 31, 1980.

IV.

Accordingly, pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR Parts 2 and 50, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

The licensee shall, by December 31, 1980, install a recirculation pump trip, or in the alternative, place and maintain its facility in a cold shutdown or refueling mode of operation.

V.

Any person who has an interest affected by this Order may request a hearing within twenty (20) days of the date of the Order. Any request for a hearing will not stay the effectiveness of this Order. Any request for a hearing shall be addressed to the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D. C. 20555. If a hearing is requested by a person whose interest may be affected by this Order, the Commission will issue an Order designating the time and place of any such hearing.

In light of the Licensee's expressed willingness to install an RPT, if a hearing is held concerning this Order the issue to be considered at the hearing shall be:

whether RPT installation should be implemented as prescribed in this Order.

Operation of the facility on terms consistent with this Order is not stayed by the pendency of any proceedings on the Order.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Darrell G. Eisenhut, Acting Director
Division of Operating Reactors
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Effective date: FEBRUARY 21, 1960
Bethesda, Maryland