

October 31, 1984

Docket No. 50-271

Mr. R. W. Capstick  
Licensing Engineer  
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation  
1671 Worcester Road  
Framingham, Massachusetts 01701

Dear Mr. Capstick:

Re: Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station

Enclosed is a copy of a "Notice of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This notice relates to your application dated August 6, 1984 for exemption from certain requirements of Appendix E, Section IV.F of 10 CFR Part 50. This exemption would permit exemption from the requirements for conducting the emergency plan exercise for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station during November 1984.

The notice has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original signed by/

Vernon L. Rooney, Project Manager  
Operating Reactors Branch #2  
Division of Licensing

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc w/enclosure:  
See next page

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Mr. R. W. Capstick  
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation  
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station

cc:

Mr. W. F. Conway  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp.  
R. D. 5, Box 169  
Ferry Road  
Brattleboro, Vermont 05301

Mr. Donald Hunter, Vice President  
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp.  
1671 Worcester Road  
Framingham, Massachusetts 01701

New England Coalition on  
Nuclear Pollution  
Hill and Dale Farm  
R. D. 2, Box 223  
Putney, Vermont 05346

Mr. Walter Zaluzny  
Chairman, Board of Selectman  
Post Office Box 116  
Vernon, Vermont 05345

J. P. Pelletier, Plant Manager  
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp.  
Post Office Box 157  
Vernon, Vermont 05354

Raymond N. McCandless  
Vermont Division of Occupational  
& Radiological Health  
Administration Building  
10 Baldwin Street  
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

Honorable John J. Easton  
Attorney General  
State of Vermont  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

John A. Ritscher, Esquire  
Ropes & Gray  
225 Franklin Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

W. P. Murphy, Vice President &  
Manager of Operations  
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp.  
R. D. 5, Box 169  
Ferry Road  
Brattleboro, Vermont 05301

U. S. Environmental Protection  
Agency  
Region I Office  
Regional Radiation Representative  
JFK Federal Building  
Boston, Massachusetts 02203

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

Vermont Yankee Decommissioning  
Alliance  
Box 53  
Montpelier, Vermont 05602-0053

Resident Inspector  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Post Office Box 176  
Vernon, Vermont 05354

Vermont Public Interest  
Research Group, Inc.  
43 State Street  
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

Thomas A. Murley  
Regional Administrator  
Region I Office  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
631 Park Avenue  
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Mr. Richard Saudek, Commissioner  
Vermont Department of Public Service  
120 State Street  
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONVERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATIONVERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATIONDOCKET NO. 50-271NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ANDFINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirements of Appendix E to 10 CFR 50 to the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation (the licensee) for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station, located at the licensee's site in Windham County, Vermont.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The exemption relates to Section IV.F.2 of Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50 which requires that each licensee at each site shall annually exercise its emergency plan. By letter dated August 6, 1984, the licensee requested that an event that occurred on June 15, 1984 be allowed to substitute for the planned November 1984 on-site exercise. The event resulted in complete implementation of its emergency plan to the Alert level.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

Section 50.54(q) of 10 CFR Part 50 requires a licensee authorized to operate a nuclear power reactor to follow and maintain in effect emergency plans which meet the standards of 10 CFR 50.47(b) and the requirements of Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50. Section IV.F.2 of Appendix E requires that each licensee at each site shall annually exercise its emergency plan. The

event that occurred on June 15, 1984 resulted in complete implementation of the Vermont Yankee Emergency Plan to the Alert level. An additional exercise of the emergency plan beyond the annual frequency required by Section IV.F.2 of Appendix E would be a significant expenditure of resources beyond the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption only affects the conduct of the annual emergency preparedness exercise and does not affect the risk of facility accidents. Thus, post-accident radiological releases will not be greater than previously determined nor does the proposed exemption otherwise affect radiological plant effluents, nor any significant occupational exposures. Likewise, the exemption does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological or nonradiological impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Since we have concluded that there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed exemption, any alternatives will either have no environmental impact or greater environmental impact. The principal alternative to the exemption would be to require literal compliance with Section IV.F of Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50. Such an action would not enhance the protection of the environment and would result in unnecessary expenditure of resources to participate in the exercise.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in connection with the Final Environmental Statement related

to this facility (Final Environmental Statement - Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station, July 1972).

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request dated August 6, 1984. The NRC staff did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

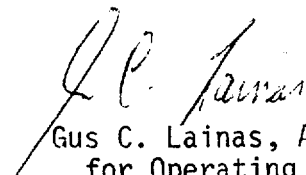
The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed license amendment.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the request for exemption dated August 6, 1984, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., and at the Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main Street, Brattleboro, Vermont 05301.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 31st day of October, 1984.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

  
Gus C. Lainas, Assistant Director  
for Operating Reactors  
Division of Licensing