

Doc File

Docket No. 50-271

November 25, 1981

Mr. Robert L. Smith
Licensing Engineer
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power
Corporation
1671 Worcester Road
Framingham, Massachusetts 01701



Dear Mr. Smith:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Modification of January 13, 1981 Order for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station. The staff currently has under review a generic proposal to extend the completion dates for the Mark 1 containment long term program modifications for all affected licensees. In light of the above, it has been determined that there is good cause for modifying the Order and granting an extension of 45 days (to January 14, 1982) from the November 30, 1981 date of the January 13, 1981 Order.

In granting this extension the staff recognizes that significant progress has been made by the licensee in meeting the Order requirements. All the major modifications, which comprises approximately 75% of the total program effort have been completed. This has resulted in substantial improvements in the margins of safety of the containment systems. The delays in the program completion as stated in your February 23, 1981 letter are primarily associated with the torus attached piping modifications and are the result of unforeseen difficulties with the analyses and equipment delivery.

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

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
T. A. Ippolito

Thomas A. Ippolito, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #2
Division of Licensing

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: See next page

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OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Mr. Robert L. Smith

cc:

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

MODIFICATION OF JANUARY 13, 1981 ORDER

I.

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

II.

On January 13, 1981 the Commission issued an Order modifying the license requiring: 1) the licensee to promptly assess the suppression pool hydrodynamic loads in accordance with NEDO-24583-1 and the Acceptance Criteria contained in Appendix A to NUREG-0661; and 2) design and install any plant modifications needed to assure that the facility conforms to the Acceptance Criteria contained in Appendix A to NUREG-0661. The Order, published in the Federal Register on January 28, 1981 (46 FR 9323) required installation of any plant modifications

needed to provide compliance with the Acceptance Criteria in Appendix A to NUREG-0661 be completed not later than November 30, 1981, or, if the plant is shutdown on that date, before the resumption of power thereafter.

In addition, the Order provided for extending, up to that same date, an exemption from General Design Criteria 50 of Appendix A to 10 CFR Part 50.

III.

On October 31, 1979, the staff issued an initial version of its acceptance criteria to the affected licensees. These criteria were subsequently revised in February 1980 to reflect acceptable alternative assessment techniques which would enhance the implementation of this program. Throughout the development of these acceptance criteria, the staff has worked closely with the Mark I Owners Group in order to encourage plant-unique assessments where necessary and modifications to be undertaken.

Since the development of these acceptance criteria significant progress has been made by the licensee in meeting the Order requirements. However, by letter dated February 23, 1981 the licensee stated that unforeseen difficulties and delays have been encountered primarily related to torus and torus attached piping analyses, and equipment delivery that has necessitated revision of the Order date.

The major modifications, which are those associated with the torus, vent system, internal structures and safety relief valve piping, which comprise approximately 75% of the total program effort, have been completed. Consequently substantial improvements have already been made in the margins of safety of the

containment systems. The delays in program completion are primarily associated with the torus attached piping modifications.

The staff currently has under review a generic proposal to extend the completion dates for the Mark I long term program containment modifications for all affected licensees. In light of the above, the Director has determined that there is good cause for modifying the Order and granting an extension of 45 days from the date specified in Section V of the January 13, 1981 Order.

IV.

Accordingly, pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, including Sections 103 and 161i, and the Commission's rules and regulations in 10 CFR Parts 2 and 50, IT IS ORDERED that the: November 30, 1981 completion date specified in Section V of the January 13, 1981 "Order for Modification of License", is extended to January 14, 1982. The Order of January 13, 1981, except as modified herein remains in effect in accordance with its terms.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Robert A. Purple, Deputy Director
Division of Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland
this 25th day of November, 1981.