

September 1, 1998

Mr. Gregory A. Maret
Director of Operations
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation
185 Old Ferry Road
Brattleboro, VT 05301

SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-28,
VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION (TAC NO. MA2229)

Dear Mr. Maret:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 162 to Facility Operating License No. DPR-28, for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station in response to your application dated June 30, 1998. In your submittal, you proposed to delete the emergency core cooling actuation instrumentation - core spray subsystem and low pressure coolant injection system auxiliary power monitor calibration requirements since the relays operate from a switched input and functional testing is sufficient to demonstrate the relay pickup/dropout capability.

A copy of the related Safety Evaluation is enclosed. Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's biweekly Federal Register notice.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Richard P. Croteau, Project Manager
Project Directorate I-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-271

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 162 to License No. DPR-28
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

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See attached

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G. Maret

cc:

Regional Administrator, Region I
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Mr. David R. Lewis
Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge
2300 N Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20037-1128

Mr. Richard P. Sedano, Commissioner
Vermont Department of Public Service
120 State Street, 3rd Floor
Montpelier, VT 05602

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

Chairman, Board of Selectmen
Town of Vernon
P.O. Box 116
Vernon, VT 05354-0116

Mr. Richard E. McCullough
Operating Experience Coordinator
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station
P.O. Box 157
Governor Hunt Road
Vernon, VT 05354

G. Dana Bisbee, Esq.
Deputy Attorney General
33 Capitol Street
Concord, NH 03301-6937

Chief, Safety Unit
Office of the Attorney General
One Ashburton Place, 19th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Ms. Deborah B. Katz
Box 83
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station

Mr. Raymond N. McCandless
Vermont Division of Occupational
and Radiological Health
Administration Building
Montpelier, VT 05602

Mr. Gautam Sen
Licensing Manager
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power
Corporation
185 Old Ferry Road
Brattleboro, VT 05301

Resident Inspector
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P.O. Box 176
Vernon, VT 05354

Mr. Peter LaPorte, Director
ATTN: James Muckerheide
Massachusetts Emergency Management
Agency
400 Worcester Rd.
P.O. Box 1496
Framingham, MA 01701-0317

Jonathan M. Block, Esq.
Main Street
P. O. Box 566
Putney, VT 05346-0566

Mr. Michael J. Daley
Trustee and Legislative Representative
New England Coalition on Nuclear
Pollution, Inc.
Box 545
Brattleboro, VT 05301

DATED: September 1, 1998

AMENDMENT NO. 162 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-28 VERMONT
YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION

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J. Zwolinski

R. Croteau

PDI-3 r/f

T. Clark

J. Wermiel

OGC

G. Hill (2)

W. Beckner

ACRS

T. Harris (TLH3)

C. Cowgill, RI



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION

DOCKET NO. 50-271

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 162
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 June 30, 1998, 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.

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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. 162, 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, to be implemented within 30 days.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Cecil O. Thomas, Director
Project Directorate I-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: September 1, 1998

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 162

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-28

DOCKET NO. 50-271

Replace the following pages of Appendix A Technical Specifications with the attached pages.
The revised pages are identified by amendment number and contain vertical lines indicating the areas of change.

Remove

Insert

59

59

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TABLE 4.2.1
(Cont'd)

MINIMUM TEST AND CALIBRATION FREQUENCIES
EMERGENCY CORE COOLING ACTUATION INSTRUMENTATION

Low Pressure Coolant Injection System			
<u>Trip Function</u>	<u>Functional Test (8)</u>	<u>Calibration (8)</u>	<u>Instrument Check</u>
Low Reactor Pressure (PT-2-3-56C/D(M))	(Note 1)	Once/Operating Cycle	--
High Drywell Pressure (PT-10-101A-D(M))	(Note 1)	Once/Operating Cycle	Once Each Day
Low-Low Reactor Vessel Water Level	(Note 1)	Once/Operating Cycle	Once Each Day
Reactor Vessel Shroud Level	(Note 1)	Once/Operating Cycle	--
Low Reactor Pressure (PS-2-128A/B)	(Note 1)	Every Three Months	--
RHR Pump Discharge Pressure	(Note 1)	Every Three Months	--
High Drywell Pressure (PT-10-101A-D(S1))	(Note 1)	Once/Operating Cycle	--
Low Reactor Pressure (PT-2-3-56A/B) (M) & 52C/D(M))	(Note 1)	Once/Operating Cycle	--
Auxiliary Power Monitor	(Note 1)	None	Once Each Day
Pump Bus Power Monitor	(Note 1)	None	Once Each Day
Trip System Logic	Once/Operating Cycle	Once/Operating Cycle (Note 3)	--

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TABLE 4.2.1

MINIMUM TEST AND CALIBRATION FREQUENCIES
EMERGENCY CORE COOLING ACTUATION INSTRUMENTATION

Core Spray System

<u>Trip Function</u>	<u>Functional Test (8)</u>	<u>Calibration (8)</u>	<u>Instrument Check</u>
High Drywell Pressure	(Note 1)	Once/Operating Cycle	Once Each Day
Low-Low Reactor Vessel Water Level	(Note 1)	Once/Operating Cycle	Once Each Day
Low Reactor Pressure (PT-2-3-56C/D (M))	(Note 1)	Once/Operating Cycle	--
Low Reactor Pressure (PT-2-3-56A/B (M) & 52C/D (M))	(Note 1)	Once/Operating Cycle	--
Pump (P-46-1A/B) Discharge Pressure	(Note 1)	Every Three Months	--
Auxiliary Power Monitor	(Note 1)	None	Once Each Day
Pump Bus Power Monitor	(Note 1)	None	Once Each Day
Trip System Logic	Once/Operating Cycle	Once/Operating Cycle (Note 3)	--



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 162 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-28
VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION
VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION
DOCKET NO. 50-271

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station is a boiling water reactor (BWR), model BWR-4, with a Mark I containment. By letter dated June 30, 1998, the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation, the licensee for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant, submitted for Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff review a proposed change to the technical specifications (TS). This change eliminates calibration of the emergency core cooling actuation instrumentation - core spray subsystem and low pressure coolant injection system auxiliary power monitor. As justification for the change, the licensee states that the relays operate from a switched input and functional testing is sufficient to demonstrate the relay pickup/dropout capability.

Specifically, the changes proposed are as follows:

- 1) T.S. Table 4.2.1 Emergency Core Cooling Actuation Instrumentation - Core Spray System, page 59: Delete the "Auxiliary Power Monitor" function "Refueling Outage" calibration requirement.
- 2) T.S. Table 4.2.1 Emergency Core Cooling Actuation Instrumentation - Low Pressure Coolant Injection System, page 60: Delete the "Auxiliary Power Monitor" function "Refueling Outage" calibration requirement.

2.0 EVALUATION

The core spray subsystem and low pressure coolant injection subsystem, in conjunction with the high pressure coolant injection and automatic depressurization systems, make up the core standby cooling systems. The objective of the core standby cooling systems, in conjunction with the primary and secondary containments, is to limit the release of radioactive materials to the environment following a loss-of-coolant accident; so that resulting radiation exposures are kept to a practical minimum and are within the guideline values given in 10 CFR 100; and to meet the requirements of 10 CFR 50.46, "Acceptance Criteria for Emergency Core Cooling Systems for Light Water Nuclear Reactors."

Two independent loops are provided as part of the core spray (CS) system. Each loop contains one 100% capacity centrifugal water pump driven by an electric motor, a spray sparger in the reactor vessel above the core, and a suction line from the suppression pool. The system automatically initiates on reactor vessel low-low water level with low reactor vessel pressure, primary containment (drywell) high pressure, or sustained low-low reactor vessel water level. When normal ac power is available, the core spray pump in both loops start. When

normal ac power is not available, each core spray pump starts when its standby power becomes available, with an approximate 10-second time delay to avoid overloading the standby source.

Low pressure coolant injection (LPCI) is an operating mode of the residual heat removal (RHR) system. The four RHR pumps are aligned so two are assigned to inject water from the suppression pool into each recirculation loop. Coolant water is injected through the discharge side of the recirculation loop, through the jet pumps, into the lower plenum of the reactor vessel to flood the core from the bottom. The LPCI system automatically actuates on reactor vessel low-low water level with low reactor vessel pressure, primary containment (drywell) high pressure, or sustained low-low reactor vessel water level. With normal ac power available, all four pumps start simultaneously with no delay. If normal ac power is not available, one pump in each loop starts with no delay as soon as the emergency bus is energized from the standby power source. The second pump in each loop starts after an approximate 5-second time delay.

The safety function of the CS and LPCI auxiliary power monitors is to initiate logic on a Loss of Normal Power (LNP) to provide sequential starting of the RHR and CS pumps on the emergency diesel generators (EDGs). Part of the auxiliary power monitors function is to allow the immediate start of the four RHR and both CS pumps if normal power is available. The only delay is the inherent operating time for the pump auto start relay circuit. If the relay pickup did not occur, the RHR and CS pumps would start in the same sequence as with normal power not available and provide the required cooling for the LOCA condition.

As justification for the proposed change, the licensee stated that the parameter monitored is a switched input and not variable, therefore, for a logic relay, an instrument calibration of the relay pickup voltage setpoint does not provide any additional operability validation. Operability of the CS and LPCI auxiliary power monitor functions is demonstrated through the required functional test and Trip System Logic Test required by TS table 4.2.1 for each function and the Simulated Automatic Actuation Test of specification 4.5.A.1.a. The auxiliary power monitor relay pickup/dropout capability is verified by performance of the functional test and the total circuit is tested under the logic testing performed each refueling outage. The demonstration of the RHR and CS pump instantaneous and delayed starting logic within the times necessary to meet the LOCA analysis of record provides assurance of operability of the auxiliary power monitor function. An instrument calibration is not necessary.

Calibration refers to adjustment of an instrument signal output so that it corresponds, within acceptable range and accuracy, to a known value of the parameter with the instrument monitors. The parameter monitored in this case is a switched input and not variable, therefore, an instrument calibration of the relay pickup voltage setpoint does not provide any useful information on the operability of the component.

The staff agrees that calibration of these auxiliary relays is not needed since the relays operate from a switched input, either on or off, and functional testing required by the TS is adequate to demonstrate the relay pickup/dropout capability. The combination of the functional testing and logic testing which continues to be required by the TS is adequate to demonstrate the operability of these components.

3.0 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.

4.0 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 and changes surveillance requirements. The NRC staff has determined that the amendment involves no significant increase in the 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 (63 FR 40563). 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.

5.0 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: Richard Croteau

Date: September 1, 1998