

April 7, 1998

Mr. Donald A. Reid
Senior Vice President, Operations
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation
185 Old Ferry Road
Brattleboro, VT 05301

SUBJECT: UPDATED TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION BASES PAGE - VERMONT YANKEE
NUCLEAR POWER STATION (TAC NO. MA1303)

Dear Mr. Reid:

By letter dated March 13, 1998, Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation submitted a change to Technical Specification (TS) Bases Section 3.10.B, Auxiliary Electric Power Systems. The change modifies the TS Bases to require that a Station Battery, ECCS Instrumentation Battery, or an Uninterruptable Power System Battery be considered inoperable if any one cell is below the specified cell voltage and specific gravity. Previously these batteries could be considered operable with one cell out of service.

We have reviewed the change and have no objection to the wording. Bases page 221 provided with your March 13, 1998, letter was replaced on March 24, 1998, by pages 221 and 221a in Amendment 155 to Facility Operating License No. DPR-28 for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station. A copy of revised Bases page 221a is enclosed

Sincerely,

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

Docket No. 50-271

Enclosure: Revised Bases page 221a

cc w/encl: See next page

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D. Reid

Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station

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VYNPS

BASES: 3.10 (Cont'd)

In the event that one off-site power source and one emergency diesel generator are unavailable, adequate power is available to operate both emergency safeguards buses from the operable off-site power source and to operate 100% of the minimum emergency safeguards loads from the operable diesel generator. In addition, the station blackout alternate ac source of power is capable of supplying power to the bus with the inoperable diesel generator. Therefore, continued operation is permitted for up to 24 hours with one off-site power source and one emergency diesel generator unavailable.

Either of the two station batteries has enough capacity to energize the vital buses and supply d-c power to the other emergency equipment for 8 hours without being recharged. In addition, two 24 volt ECCS Instrumentation batteries supply power to instruments that provide automatic initiation of the ECCS and some reactor pressure and level indication in the Control Room.

Due to the high reliability of battery systems, one of the two batteries may be out of service for up to three days. This minimizes the probability of unwarranted shutdown by providing adequate time for reasonable repairs. A station battery, ECCS Instrumentation battery, or an Uninterruptible Power System battery is considered inoperable if one cell is out of service. A cell will be considered out of service if its float voltage is below 2.13 volts and the specific gravity is below 1.190 at 77°F.

The Battery Room is ventilated to prevent accumulation of hydrogen gas. With a complete loss of the ventilation system, the accumulation of hydrogen would not exceed 4 percent concentration in 16 days. Therefore, on loss of Battery Room ventilation, the use of portable ventilation equipment and daily sampling provide assurance that potentially hazardous quantities of hydrogen gas will not accumulate.

- C. The minimum diesel fuel supply of 25,000 gallons will supply one diesel generator for a minimum of seven days of operation satisfying the load requirements for the operation of the safeguards equipment. Additional fuel can be obtained and delivered to the site from nearby sources within the seven-day period.