March 31, 1998

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

SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT NO. 156 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-28, VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION (TAC NO. M99455)

Dear Mr. Reid:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 156 to Facility Operating License No. DPR-28, for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station. The amendment consists of changes to the Technical Specifications (TSs) in response to your application dated October 11, 1996.

The amendment revises TS Sections 3.13.G.1 and 3.13.G.2 regarding the amount of foam concentrate required to support the operability of the reactor recirculation motor generator Set foam fire suppression system. In both instances, the required amount of foam concentrate is increased from 100 gallons to 150 gallons.

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

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

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 156 to License No. DPR-28
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

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See attached

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DATE	03/18/98		03/18/98		03/19/98		03/25/98		03/31/98			

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DATED: March 31, 1998

AMENDMENT NO. 156 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-28 VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION

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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. 156
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 October 11, 1996, 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.

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. 156 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 of issuance.

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 Specification

Date of Issuance: March 31, 1998

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 156

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-28

DOCKET NO. 50-271

Replace the following page of Appendix A Technical Specifications with the attached page. The revised page is identified by amendment number and contains vertical lines indicating the areas of change.

Remove	Insert
248	248

3.13 LIMITING CONDITIONS FOR OPERATION

G. Foam Systems

1. Except as specified in Specification 3.13.G.2 below, the Recirculation M.G. Set Foam System shall be operable with its foam concentrate tank full (150 gallons) whenever the Recirculation M.G. Sets are operating.

2. From and after the date that the Recirculation M.G. Set Foam System is inoperable, a fire watch shall be established to inspect the location at least once every hour; and a foam nozzle shall be brought to the Reactor Building elevation containing the Recirculation M.G. Sets. A 150 gallon foam concentrate supply shall be available on site.

3. Except as specified in Specification 3.13.G.4 below, the Turbine Building Foam System shall be operable with its foam concentrate tank full (150 gallons).

4. From and after the date that the Turbine Building Foam System is inoperable a portable foam nozzle shall be brought to the Turbine Building Foam System location. A 150 gallon foam concentrate supply shall be available on-site.

4.13 SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS

G. Foam Systems

1. The foam system specified in 3.13.G shall be demonstrated operable.

   a. At least once per 12 months by cycling each testable valve in the flow path through at least one complete cycle of full travel.

   b. At least once per 18 months by:

      1. Cycling each valve in the flow path that is not testable during plant operation through at least one complete cycle of full travel.

      2. A visual inspection of the foam system and equipment to verify integrity, and

      3. A visual inspection of the Recirculation M.G. Set Foam System foam nozzle area to verify that the spray pattern is not obstructed.

      4. Foam concentrate samples shall be taken and analyzed for acceptability.

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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 156 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-28

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION

DOCKET NO. 50-271

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated October 11, 1996, the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation (the licensee) submitted a request to amend the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station Technical Specifications (TSs). The proposed amendment would revise TS Sections 3.13.G.1 and 3.13.G.2 regarding the amount of foam concentrate required to support the operability of the reactor recirculation motor generator (MG) set foam fire suppression system. In both instances, the required amount of foam concentrate is increased from 100 gallons to 150 gallons.

2.0 EVALUATION

In License Event Report 96-13, dated May 23, 1996, the licensee reported, in part, that the reactor recirculation MG set foam fire suppression system area of coverage per foam nozzle was found to exceed the manufacturer's recommended coverage. The system was administratively declared inoperable and compensatory measures were put in place. The licensee's stated corrective action was to modify the system as necessary to bring it to its required design configuration. To that end, a design change was prepared to replace the existing equipment with a system capable of satisfying National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) discharge density requirements, thereby restoring the system to its originally approved design configuration. As part of this new system, a 150-gallon foam concentrate tank will be installed to provide the capacity required to meet NFPA Standards. The intent of the current TSs regarding foam concentrate inventory is to keep the existing tank full and to keep a 100% refill capacity on site at all times. The proposed amendment will ensure that this intent continues to be met.

The proposed amendment will only modify the TSs to reflect the actual inventory of foam concentrate required to support the operability of the reactor recirculation MG set foam fire suppression system. The method of system operation and initiation remain unchanged from the originally approved design. The increase in inventory is required to ensure that NFPA Code requirements for this system are met. The new system design has been evaluated to assure that the enhanced spray pattern and increased volume of spray does not impact any equipment not previously evaluated and does not create any threat of flooding to equipment.

Based on its review, the NRC staff finds that the proposed amendment will have no adverse impact on safety and does not pose an undue risk to public health and safety. In addition, the proposed change is required to assure that NFPA Code requirements for this system are met. Therefore, it is acceptable.

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. 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 (62 FR 54877). 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: Kahtan N. Jabbour

Date: March 31, 1998