

September 20, 2001

Mr. Michael A. Balduzzi
Senior Vice President
and Chief Nuclear Officer
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation
185 Old Ferry Road
P.O. Box 7002
Brattleboro, Vermont 05302-7002

SUBJECT: NRC-EVALUATED EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE -
VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION INSPECTION REPORT
NO. 50-271/01-09

Dear Mr. Balduzzi:

The enclosed report documents an inspection at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station which evaluated the performance of your emergency response organization during the September 5, 2001, full-participation exercise, the post-exercise critique, and the emergency preparedness performance indicators as specified in the reactor oversight program. The inspectors discussed the findings of this inspection with yourself and other members of your staff on September 6, 2001.

This inspection was an examination of activities conducted under your license as they relate to safety and compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations and with the conditions of your license. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of a selected examination of procedures and representative records, observations of activities, and interviews with personnel.

Based on the results of this inspection, no issues of significance were identified.

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Mr. Michael A. Balduzzi

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Should you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Mr. Richard J. Conte at (610) 337-5183.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard J. Conte, Chief
Operational Safety Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No: 50-271
License No: DPR-28

Enclosure: Inspection Report No. 50-271/01-09

cc w/encls:

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Mr. Michael A. Balduzzi

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U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION I

Docket No: 50-271

License No: DPR-28

Report No: 50-271/01-09

Licensee: Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation

Facility: Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station

Dates: September 4 - 6, 2001

Inspectors: D. Silk, Senior Emergency Preparedness Inspector, DRS (Lead)
R. Barkley, Project Engineer, Branch 3, DRP
H. Williams, Senior Operations Engineer, DRS
J. Noggle, Senior Radiation Specialist, DRS

Approved by: Richard J. Conte, Chief
Operational Safety Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

IR 05000271/2001-009, on 09/4-6/2001;Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation, Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station. Emergency Preparedness exercise. Performance Indicators.

This inspection was conducted by region based inspectors and the resident inspector. The significance of issues is indicated by their color (Green, White, Yellow, Red) using IMC 0609 "Significance Determination Process" (SDP). Findings for which the SDP does not apply are indicated by "No Color" or by the severity level of the applicable violation. The NRC's program for overseeing the safe operation of commercial nuclear power reactors is described at its Reactor Oversight Process website at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/index.html>.

Cornerstone: Emergency Preparedness

- No findings of significance were identified.

Report Details

1. REACTOR SAFETY

Cornerstone: Emergency Preparedness (EP)

1EP1 Exercise Evaluation

a. Inspection Scope

The inspectors reviewed and assessed:

- Exercise objectives and scenario to determine if the exercise would test major elements of the licensee's emergency plan as required by 10 CFR 50.47(b)(14).
- The licensee's biennial full-participation exercise performance by primarily focusing on the implementation of the risk-significant planning standards (RSPS) in 10 CFR 50.47 (b) (4), (5), (9) & (10) which are emergency classification, offsite notification, radiological assessment, and protective action recommendations (PARs), respectively.
- The overall adequacy of the licensee's emergency response facilities and their compliance with NUREG-0696, Functional Criteria for Emergency Response Facilities, and emergency plan commitments. The facilities assessed were the simulator control room, the technical support center (TSC), the operations support center (OSC), the emergency operations facility (EOF), and the news media center (NMC).
- Other performance areas besides the RSPS, such as, the emergency response organization's (ERO) recognition of abnormal plant conditions, command and control, intra- and inter-facility communications, prioritization of mitigation activities, utilization of repair and field monitoring teams, interface with offsite agencies, and the overall implementation of the emergency plan and implementing procedures.

Past performance issues from NRC inspection reports and licensee drill/exercise reports to determine effectiveness of corrective actions as demonstrated during this exercise.

- The post-exercise critique to evaluate the licensee's self-assessment of their ERO performance during the exercise and to ensure compliance with 10CFR50 Appendix E.IV.F.2.g.

b. Findings

No findings of significance were identified in this area.

1EP4 Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes

a. Inspection Scope

The inspector conducted an in-office review of licensee submitted changes for the emergency plan-related documents listed below to determine if the changes decreased the effectiveness of the plan. A thorough review was conducted of documents related to the RSPS whereas a cursory review was conducted for non-RSPS documents. The submitted and reviewed documents follow:

AP 3125	Emergency Plan Classification & Action Level Scheme (Rev 18)
AP 3532	Emergency Preparedness Organization (Rev 10 LPC 1)
OP 3500	Unusual Event (Rev 19) - Canceled
OP 3501	Alert (Rev 20) - Canceled
OP 3502	Site Area Emergency (Rev 32) - Canceled
OP 3503	General Emergency (Rev 34) - Canceled
OP 3504	Emergency Communication (Rev 33)
OP 3506	Emergency Equipment Readiness Check (Rev 40)
OP 3507	Emergency Radiation Exposure Control (Rev 29 LPC 2)
OP 3508	Onsite Medical Emergency Procedure (Rev 22 LPC 2)
OP 3511	Off-Site Protective Action Recommendations (Rev 11 LPC 3)
OP 3524	Emergency Actions to Ensure Initial Accountability (Rev 17 LPC 1)
OP 3531	Emergency Call-In Method (Rev 14)
OP 3540	Control Room Actions During an Emergency (Rev 0)
OP3541	Activation of the Technical Support Center (TSC) (Rev 0)
OP 3542	Operation of the Technical Support Center (TSC) (Rev 0)
OP 3544	Operation of the Operations Support Center (OSC) (Rev 0)
OP 3545	Activation of the Emergency Operation Facility/ Recovery Center (EOF/RC) (Rev 0)
OP 3546	Operation of the Emergency Operations Facility/ Recovery Center (Rev 0)
OP 3547	Security Actions During an Emergency (Rev 0)

b. Findings

Canceled procedures were incorporated into new procedures. No findings of significance were identified in this area.

4. **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

4OA1 Performance Indicator (PI) Verification

a. Inspection Scope

The inspectors reviewed the licensee's process for identifying the data that is utilized to determine the values for the three EP PIs:

- Drill and Exercise Performance
- ERO Drill Participation, and
- Alert and Notification System Reliability.

Since the EP PIs were last reviewed during an inspection in December 2000, this review assessed data and records from that time which included results from the fourth quarter of 2000 and the first two quarters of 2001.

b. Findings

No findings of significance were identified in this area.

4OA2 Identification and Resolution of Problems

a. Inspection Scope

The inspectors reviewed licensee findings (EP drill reports and Event Reports (ER)) for approximately the past year pertaining to drills or actual conditions, and the last licensee biennial exercise critique to determine if significant performance trends exist and to determine the effectiveness of licensee corrective actions based upon ERO performance during the exercise. The inspectors verified that issues identified during the exercise were identified for resolution in the following ERs :

<u>ER Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
2001-1776	Respiratory protection questions for chemistry technicians (repeat)
2001-1915	OP 3542 was not in Control Copy 3 of the EIPs
2001-1920	Procedures not implement to inform site personnel of state PARs
2001-1929	Control room communicator did not follow script for announcement
2001-1931	OP3541 was not implemented as written
2001-1933	Communications not meeting management expectations
2001-1934	OSC implementation issues with OP 3534 and OP3510
2001-1935	Sterile water in contamination showers out of date
2001-1936	Gaitronics difficult to hear in OSC (Repeat)
2001-1938	First pager activation provided incorrect code due to disconnect
2001-1939	Radio Emergency Channel 3 malfunction
2001-1940	OP 3546.02 notification forms not completed for PAR upgrades
2001-1941	Scenario and exercise control issues
2001-1942	Weaknesses in the development of the scenario package

b. Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

40A6 Exit Meeting

The inspectors presented the inspection results to Mr. M. Balduzzi , and other members of the licensee's staff at the conclusion of the inspection on September 6, 2001. The licensee had no objections to the NRC findings or observations.

KEY POINTS OF CONTACT

Licensee

M. Balduzzi, Senior Vice President Operations
 K. Bronson, Plant Manager
 L. Cantrell, Shift Supervisor
 A. Chesley, Emergency Plan Supervisor
 J. Cosgrove, Director of Public Affairs & Human Resources
 L. Doane, Operations
 J. Dreyfuss, Superintendent, Systems Engineering
 M. Empey, Emergency Plan Drill/Exercise/Training Coordinator
 B. Finn, Superintendent, Training
 M. Gosekamp, Operations Training Manager
 D. Leach, Vice President Engineering
 T. Murphy, Director of Administration
 L. Smith, Corporate & Community Relations Representative
 L. Tzaczyk, Emergency Plan Coordinator
 R. Wanczyk, Director of Safety & Regulatory Affairs
 A. Williams, Emergency Plan On-Site Coordinator
 R. Williams, Company Spokesperson

LIST OF ITEMS OPENED, CLOSED, AND DISCUSSED

Opened

None

Closed

None

Discussed

None

LIST OF ACRONYMS

EOF	Emergency Operations Facility
EP	Emergency Preparedness
ER	Event Report
ERO	Emergency Response Organization
NMC	News Media Center
OSC	Operations Support Center
PAR	Protective Action Recommendation
PI	Performance Indicator
RSPS	Risk Significant Planning Standard
TSC	Technical Support Center