

March 20, 2002
EN-02-010

OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT
NOTIFICATION OF SIGNIFICANT REGULATORY ACTION

Licensee: Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation (EA-01-232)
(Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station)
Docket No. 50-271

Subject: ISSUANCE OF FINAL SIGNIFICANCE DETERMINATION

This is to inform the Commission that a YELLOW Significance Determination Process (SDP) finding will be issued on or around March 20, 2002, to Vermont Yankee as a result of inspections at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station. This YELLOW finding concerning response strategy weaknesses found during an Operational Safeguards Response Evaluation conducted between August 20-23, 2001, is an issue with substantial importance to safety that will result in additional NRC inspection and potentially other NRC action. The weaknesses were identified during tabletop drills prior to force-on-force exercises and were subsequently confirmed by the results of two of the four force-on-force exercises. These weaknesses were determined by the NRC to be generally predictable, repeatable and indicative of a broad programmatic problem. The licensee immediately implemented compensatory actions to address the weaknesses.

Due to the events of September 11, 2001, the regulatory conference for this issue was not held until January 18, 2002.

This finding does not involve violations of any NRC requirements based on the direction of the Commission in the Staff Requirements Memorandum dated January 25, 2001, as documented in Enforcement Guidance Memorandum 01-001.

It should be noted that the licensee has not been specifically informed of the final significance determination. The schedule of issuance and notification are:

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| Mailing of Final Significance Determination | March 25, 2002 |
| Telephone Notification of licensee | March 25, 2002 |

Contacts: J. Dixon-Herrity, OE, 415-1980
J. Luehman, OE, 415-2741

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| NAME | JDixon-Herrity | JGLuehman |
| DATE | 03/ /2002 | 03/ /2002 |

**PRELIMINARY INFORMATION - NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE UNTIL
VERIFICATION THAT LICENSEE HAS RECEIVED ACTION**