

September 19, 2002

Mr. Jay K. Thayer  
Site Vice President - Vermont Yankee  
Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee, LLC  
P.O. Box 500  
185 Old Ferry Road  
Brattleboro, VT 05302-0500

SUBJECT: VERMONT YANKEE SENIOR REACTOR OPERATOR UPGRADE  
INITIAL EXAMINATION REPORT NO. 50-271/02-301

Dear Mr. Thayer:

This report transmits the results of the senior reactor operator upgrade (SROU) licensing examination conducted by the NRC during the period of August 12 - 14, 2002. This examination addressed areas important to public health and safety and was developed and administered using the guidelines of the "Examination Standards for Power Reactors" (NUREG-1021, Revision 8, Supplement 1).

Based on the results of the examination, all three applicants (all SROUs) passed all portions of the examination. Examination results indicated that the applicants were well prepared for the examination. Mr. T. Fish discussed performance insights observed during the examination with Mr. M. Gosekamp and others on August 14, 2002. No findings of significance were identified. On August 26, 2002, final examination results, including all individual license numbers, were given during a telephone call between Mr. Fish and Mr. C. Wamser.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). These records include the final examination and are available in ADAMS (SROU Written-Accession Number ML022460331; SROU Operating Section A-Accession Number ML022460343; SROU Operating Section B-Accession Number ML022460354; and SROU Operating Section C-Accession Number ML022460364). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/ADAMS.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Should you have any questions regarding this examination, please contact me at (610) 337-5183, or by E-mail at RJC@NRC.GOV.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

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

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

Enclosure: Initial Examination Report No. 50-271/02-301

cc w/encl:

M. R. Kansler, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

M. Hamer, Operating Experience Coordinator - Entergy Nuclear  
Vermont Yankee, LLC

G. Sen, Manager, Licensing, Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee, LLC

B. Finn, Superintendent - Training

D. Tefft, Administrator, Bureau of Radiological Health, State  
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D. Katz, Citizens Awareness Network (CAN)

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State of Vermont, SLO Designee

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U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION I

Docket No: 50-271

License No: DPR-28

Report No: 02-301

Licensee: Entergy Nuclear Operations

Facility: Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station

Dates: August 12 - 13, 2002 (Operating Test Administration)  
August 15, 2002 (Written Examination Administration)  
August 20 - 23, 2002 (Examination Grading)

Examiners: T. Fish, Operations Engineer (Chief Examiner)

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

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

IR 05000271/02-301; August 12 - 14, 2002; Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station; Initial Operator Licensing Examination Report. Three of three applicants (SRO upgrades) passed the examination.

The written examinations were administered by the facility and the operating tests were administered by an NRC region-based examiner.

A. Inspector Identified Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

B. License Identified Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

## Report Details

### 1. REACTOR SAFETY

#### Mitigating Systems - Senior Reactor Operator Upgrade (SROU) Initial License Examinations

##### a. Scope of Review

The Vermont Yankee examination team developed the written and operating initial examinations and together with NRC personnel, verified or ensured, as applicable, the following:

- The examination was prepared and developed in accordance with the guidelines of Revision 8, Supplement 1 of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors" and it met the overall quality goals (range of acceptability) of these standards. The review was conducted both in the Region I office and at the Vermont Yankee plant and training facility. Final resolution of comments and incorporation of test revisions were conducted during and following the onsite preparation week.
- Simulation facility operation was proper.
- Facility licensee completed a test item analysis on the written examination for feedback into the systems approach to training program.
- Examination security requirements were met.

The NRC examiner administered the operating portion of the examination to the three applicants from August 12 - 13, 2002. Vermont Yankee staff administered the written examination on August 15, 2002.

##### b. Findings

#### Grading and Results

All three applicants (3 SROUs) passed all portions of the initial licensing examination.

The licensee did not submit post-written examination comments.

#### Examination Preparation and Quality

The examination was within the acceptable range.

#### Examination Administration and Performance

The NRC examiner did not note any generic performance errors by the applicants during the administration of the examination.

**4. OTHER ACTIVITIES**

4OA6 Meetings, including Exit

On August 26, 2002, the NRC provided conclusions and examination results to the Vermont Yankee Superintendent of Operations, Mr. C. Wamser, via telephone. License numbers for the applicants were also provided during this time.

The NRC also expressed appreciation for the cooperation and assistance the training staff provided during the preparation and administration of the examination.

**ATTACHMENT 1**

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

KEY POINTS OF CONTACT

M. Gosekamp	Manager - Operations Training
F. Fagan	Supervisor - Operations Training and Exam Coordinator
K. Murphy	Operations Training

LIST OF ITEMS OPENED, CLOSED, AND DISCUSSED

None.