

January 5, 2004

MEMORANDUM TO: Darrell J. Roberts, Acting Chief, Section 2  
Project Directorate I  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Richard B. Ennis, Senior Project Manager, Section 2 */RA/*  
Project Directorate I  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION, DRAFT  
REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (TAC NO. MC0848)

The attached draft request for information (RAI) was transmitted on January 5, 2004, to Ms. Ronda Daflucas of Entergy (the licensee). This information was transmitted to facilitate a upcoming conference call in order to clarify the licensee's relief request ISI-06 for Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station dated September 25, 2003. The licensee's submittal proposes alternative examination requirements for Reactor Pressure Vessel (RPV) circumferential shell welds in lieu of certain requirements in Section XI of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME Code).

This memorandum and the attachment do not convey or represent an NRC staff position regarding the licensee's request.

Docket No. 50-271

Attachment: Draft RAI

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DRAFT REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

RELATED TO RELIEF REQUEST ISI-06

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION

DOCKET NO. 50-271

By letter dated dated September 25, 2003, Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee, LLC and Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (Entergy or the licensee) submitted relief request ISI-06 for Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (VYNPS). The licensee's submittal proposes alternative examination requirements for Reactor Pressure Vessel (RPV) circumferential shell welds in lieu of certain requirements in Section XI of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME Code).

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has reviewed the information the licensee provided that supports the proposed relief request and would like to discuss the following issues to clarify the submittal:

- 1) As discussed in the submittal dated September 25, 2003, during VYNPS refueling outage 19 (in 1996), the licensee performed augmented examination of essentially all of the accessible RPV circumferential and axial shell welds. During the inspection, seven indications in the RPV were found and one of them exceeded the Section XI acceptance criteria. The flaw was accepted in an NRC Safety Evaluation dated October 11, 1996.

Subsequently, the licensee sought relief from successive inspection of that particular flaw. Entergy letter dated January 28, 1999, stated "for this flaw VY will continue to examine the required vessel volumetric inspection according to the schedule stipulated by ASME Section XI, IWB-2412." Based on that commitment, the NRC approved the alternate inspection (Safety Evaluation dated April 7, 1999).

The licensee is now requesting relief from the requirements of examination of circumferential welds based on BWRVIP-05. The NRC staff would like to discuss the basis for the requested relief.