

February 16, 2005

Mr. David O'Brien, Commissioner  
Department of Public Service  
State of Vermont  
112 State Street - Drawer 20  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2601

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION OF CORRECTIVE ACTIONS AT VERMONT YANKEE  
NUCLEAR POWER STATION

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

This letter responds to your letter dated January 26, 2005, regarding NRC inspection of Entergy's corrective actions for items found in the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station engineering team inspection. Specifically, you wanted to know whether the NRC had reviewed Entergy's corrective actions for the item related to the length of time required to place the reactor core isolation cooling (RCIC) system in service from the alternate shutdown panels.

During the August 2004 engineering inspection, the team assured that there were no current reactor safety issues regarding this item. Specifically, the engineering inspection team determined that under the current licensed power level, the RCIC system could be placed in service from the alternate shutdown panels (outside the control room) within the required time. However, the team identified that the Safe Shutdown Capability Analysis associated with the initiation of RCIC from the alternate shutdown panels during an Appendix R fire scenario had not been updated to account for the increase in the time needed for operators to complete required actions that resulted, in part, from new personnel safety requirements. The NRC plans to inspect Entergy's corrective actions for the engineering team's finding, including those actions taken to reduce the time required to place RCIC in service from the alternate shutdown panels to increase available margin, during a problem identification and resolution sample inspection during the week March 21, 2005. This schedule was coordinated with Bill Sherman of your staff.

The other items from the Vermont Yankee engineering team inspection will be reviewed in future NRC inspections as part of the NRC reactor oversight process.

If you have any questions regarding our planned inspection, please contact me or Mr. Larry Doerflein of my staff at (610) 337-5378.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Wayne D. Lanning, Director  
Division of Reactor Safety

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License No. DPR-28

Mr. David O'Brien, Commissioner

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cc:

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**SISP Review Complete: WDL**

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