



August 24, 2005
BVY 05-079

ATTN: Document Control Desk
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

**Subject: Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station
License No. DPR-28 (Docket No. 50-271)
Response to Request for Additional Information
Regarding Relief Request B-5, Limited Examinations**

By letter dated October 1, 2003¹, as supplemented by letter dated May 11, 2005², Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (VY) submitted Relief Request B-5. Relief Request B-5 proposed relief for identified weld examinations from the Third Interval where the required "essentially 100%" examination coverage was impractical due to physical obstructions and limitations imposed by design, geometry and materials of construction of the subject components.

Following a telecom discussion with NRC staff on August 22, 2005, we are providing the following further details concerning the vessel support skirt weld inspections activities at VY to assist with your review of our submittal.

The vessel support skirt weld is approximately 622" in length, or 1244" in total length of weld inspection required (inside diameter (ID) + outside diameter (OD)).

The vessel support skirt weld was examined during the Third Inspection Interval by visual and surface methods as follows:

Outside Diameter: 64" of weld examined at 68° and 248° (16" either side of azimuth location for total of 32" at each location) utilizing the Magnetic Particle and Visual methods on 5/12/2001.

Inside Diameter: 622" of weld were examined utilizing the Liquid Penetrant and Visual methods on 10/14/2002.

Calculation Total Coverage: $64" \text{ (OD)} + 622" \text{ (ID)} = 686" \text{ total coverage}$. Therefore $686"/1244"=0.5514$ or approximately 55% coverage (approx. 45% limited coverage). VY requested a 50% coverage relief for this weld in Table 1 of RR B-5. The 5% difference compensates for differences in weld length between the ID and OD circumferences. The 50% limited examination coverage request is conservative.

¹ Reference VY Letter to USNRC, BVY 03-87, "Supplement to Third-Interval Inservice Inspection (ISI) Program – Submittal of Relief Request B-5, Limited Examinations," dated October 1, 2003.

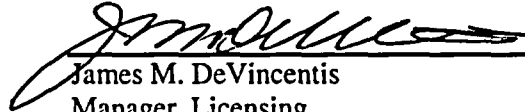
² Reference VY Letter to USNRC, BVY 05-037, "Relief Request B-5, Response to Request for Additional Information," dated May 11, 2005.

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There are no regulatory commitments contained within this letter.

Please contact me at (802) 258-4236, if there are any questions regarding this submittal.

Sincerely,



James M. DeVincentis
Manager, Licensing
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station

cc: USNRC Region 1 Administrator
USNRC Resident Inspector - VYNPS
USNRC Project Manager - VYNPS
Vermont Department of Public Service