

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Docket No. 72-59

EA-06-116

**In the Matter of ENTERGY NUCLEAR VERMONT YANKEE, LLC.
VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION
INDEPENDENT SPENT FUEL STORAGE INSTALLATION
ORDER MODIFYING LICENSE (EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY)**

AGENCY: U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Issuance of Order for Implementation of Interim Safeguards and Security
Compensatory Measures.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Christopher M. Regan, Senior Project Manager,
Licensing and Inspection Directorate, Spent Fuel Project Office, Office of Nuclear Material
Safety and Safeguards (NMSS), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Rockville, MD
20852. Telephone: (301) 415-1179; fax number: (301) 415-8555; e-mail: CMR1@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Introduction

Pursuant to 10 CFR 2.106, the NRC (or The Commission) is providing notice in the
matter of Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation
(ISFSI) Order Modifying License (Effective Immediately).

II. Further Information

I

NRC has issued a general license to Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee, LLC. (Entergy), authorizing storage of spent fuel in an ISFSI, in accordance with the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 and Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 50, and 10 CFR Part 72. This Order is being issued to Entergy which has identified near-term plans to store spent fuel in an ISFSI under the general license provisions of Part 72. The Commission's regulations at 10 CFR 72.212(b)(5) and 10 CFR 73.55(h)(1) require Entergy to maintain safeguards contingency plan procedures in accordance with 10 CFR Part 73, Appendix C. Specific safeguards requirements are contained in 10 CFR 73.55.

II

On September 11, 2001, terrorists simultaneously attacked targets in New York, NY, and Washington, DC, using large commercial aircraft as weapons. In response to the attacks and intelligence information subsequently obtained, the Commission issued a number of Safeguards and Threat Advisories to its licensees, to strengthen licensees' capabilities and readiness to respond to a potential attack on a nuclear facility. The Commission has also communicated with other Federal, State, and local government agencies and industry representatives to discuss and evaluate the current threat environment, to assess the adequacy of security measures at licensed facilities. In addition, the Commission has been conducting a comprehensive review of its safeguards and security programs and requirements.

As a result of its consideration of current safeguards and security plan requirements, as well as a review of information provided by the intelligence community and other governmental

agencies, the Commission has determined that certain compensatory measures are required to be implemented by licensees as prudent, interim measures, to address the current threat environment in a consistent manner throughout the nuclear ISFSI community. Therefore, the Commission is imposing requirements, as set forth in Attachment 1¹ of this Order, on Entergy which has indicated near-term plans to store spent fuel in an ISFSI under the general license provisions of Part 72. These interim requirements, which supplement existing regulatory requirements, will provide the Commission with reasonable assurance that the public health and safety and common defense and security continue to be adequately protected in the current threat environment. These requirements will remain in effect until the Commission determines otherwise.

The Commission recognizes that some measures may not be possible or necessary, or may need to be tailored to accommodate the specific circumstances existing at Entergy's facility, to achieve the intended objectives and avoid any unforeseen effect on the safe storage of spent fuel.

To provide assurance that licensees are implementing prudent measures to achieve a consistent level of protection to address the current threat environment, the Commission concludes that security measures must be embodied in an Order consistent with the established regulatory framework. Entergy's general license issued pursuant to 10 CFR 72.210 shall be modified to include the requirements identified in Attachment 1 to this Order. In addition, pursuant to 10 CFR 2.202, the Commission finds that in the circumstances described above, the public health, safety, and interest require that this Order be effective immediately.

¹ Attachment 1 contains SAFEGUARDS INFORMATION and will not be released to the public.

III

Accordingly, pursuant to Sections 103, 104, 161b, 161i, 161o, 182, and 186 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR 2.202 and 10 CFR Parts 50, 72, and 73, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, **EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**, THAT YOUR GENERAL LICENSE IS MODIFIED AS FOLLOWS:

- A. Entergy shall comply with the requirements described in Attachment 1 to this Order, except to the extent that a more stringent requirement is set forth in its security plan. Entergy shall immediately start implementation of the requirements in Attachment 1 to the Order and shall complete implementation before **November 30, 2006**, or the first day that spent fuel is initially placed in the ISFSI, whichever is sooner.
- B. 1. Entergy shall, within **twenty (20) days** of the date of this Order, notify the Commission: (1) if they are unable to comply with any of the requirements described in Attachment 1; (2) if compliance with any of the requirements is unnecessary in its specific circumstances; or (3) if implementation of any of the requirements would cause the licensee to be in violation of the provisions of any Commission regulation or the facility license. The notification shall provide the licensee's justification for seeking relief from, or variation, of any specific requirement.
2. If Entergy considers that implementation of any of the requirements described in Attachment 1 to this Order would adversely impact the safe storage of spent fuel, Entergy must notify the Commission, within **twenty (20) days** of this Order, of the adverse safety impact, the basis for its determination that the requirement has an adverse safety impact, and either a proposal for achieving the same objectives specified in the Attachment 1 requirement(s) in question, or a

schedule for modifying the facility to address the adverse safety condition. If neither approach is appropriate, Entergy must supplement its response to Condition B.1 of this Order to identify the condition as a requirement with which it cannot comply, with attendant justifications, as required in Condition B.1.

- C. 1. Entergy shall, within **twenty (20) days** of the date of this Order, submit, to the Commission, a schedule for achieving compliance with each requirement described in Attachment 1.
- 2. Entergy shall report to the Commission when it has achieved full compliance with the requirements described in Attachment 1.
- D. All measures implemented or actions taken in response to this Order shall be maintained until the Commission determines otherwise.

Entergy's responses to Conditions B.1, B.2, C.1, and C.2, above, shall be submitted in accordance with 10 CFR 72.4. In addition, submittals that contain Safeguards Information shall be properly marked and handled in accordance with 10 CFR 73.21.

The Director, NMSS may, in writing, relax or rescind any of the above conditions, on Entergy's demonstration of good cause.

IV

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.202, Entergy must, and any other entity adversely affected by this Order may, submit an answer to this Order, and may request a hearing on this Order, within twenty (20) days of the date of this Order. Where good cause is shown, consideration will be given to extending the time to request a hearing. A request for extension of time in which to submit an answer or request a hearing must be made in writing to the Director, Office of Nuclear Material

Safety and Safeguards, and the Director, Office of Enforcement, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, and include a statement of good cause for the extension. The answer may consent to this Order. Unless the answer consents to this Order, the answer shall, in writing and under oath or affirmation, specifically set forth the matters of fact and law on which the licensee or other entity adversely affected relies and the reasons as to why the Order should not have been issued. Any answer or request for a hearing shall be submitted to the Secretary, Office of the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff, Washington, DC 20555. Copies also shall be sent to the Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555; to the Director, Office of Enforcement at the same address; to the Assistant General Counsel for Materials Litigation and Enforcement, at the same address, to the Regional Administrator for NRC Region I at 475 Allendale Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406-1415; and to the licensee, if the answer or hearing request is by an entity other than the licensee. Because of potential disruptions in delivery of mail to United States Government offices, it is requested that answers and requests for hearing be transmitted to the Secretary of the Commission, either by means of facsimile transmission, to

301-415-1101, or by e-mail, to hearingdocket@nrc.gov, and also to the Office of the General Counsel (OGC), either by means of facsimile transmission, to 301-415-3725, or by e-mail, to OGCMailCenter@nrc.gov. If an entity other than Entergy requests a hearing, that entity shall set forth, with particularity, the manner in which its interest is adversely affected by this Order and shall address the criteria set forth in 10 CFR 2.309.

If Entergy or another entity whose interest is adversely affected requests a hearing, the Commission will issue an Order designating the hearing's time and place. If a hearing is held, the issue to

be considered at such a hearing shall be whether this Order should be sustained.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 2.202(c)(2)(i), Entergy may, in addition to demanding a hearing, at the time the answer is filed or sooner, move the presiding officer to set aside the immediate effectiveness of the Order on the grounds that the Order, including the need for immediate effectiveness, is not based on adequate evidence but on mere suspicion, unfounded allegations, or error.

In the absence of any request for hearing, or written approval of an extension of time in which to request a hearing, the provisions specified in Section III above shall be final **twenty (20) days** from the date of this Order, without further order or proceedings. If an extension of time for requesting a hearing has been approved, the provisions specified in Section III shall be final when the extension expires, if a hearing request has not been received. AN ANSWER OR A REQUEST FOR HEARING SHALL NOT STAY THE IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS ORDER.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

Jack R. Strosnider, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Dated this 15th day of June 2006.