

December 13, 2006

Ms. Jane Lendway
State Historic Preservation Officer
Vermont Division of Historic Preservation
National Life Building, Drawer 20
Montpelier, VT 05620-0501

SUBJECT: VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION LICENSE RENEWAL
APPLICATION REVIEW (DHP NO. WD03-01)

Dear Ms. Lendway:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application to renew the operating license for Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station, which is located in the town of Vernon, Vermont, in Windham County on the west shore of the Connecticut River. Vermont Yankee (VY) is operated by Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (Entergy). As part of its review of the proposed action, the NRC staff has prepared a site-specific Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to its "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" (GEIS), NUREG-1437. The SEIS includes analyses of relevant environmental issues, including potential impacts to historic, archaeological, and cultural properties for the extended period of operation. In accordance with our letter to you dated May 8, 2006, a copy of the draft supplement is enclosed. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.8(c), we are requesting your comments on the draft supplement and on our preliminary conclusions regarding historic properties.

As stated in our May 8, 2006 letter, the NRC staff has determined the area of potential effect (APE) for a license renewal action is the area at the power plant site and its immediate environs, which may be impacted by post-license renewal land disturbing operation or projected refurbishment activities associated with the proposed action. The staff views the APE for the Vermont Yankee license renewal as including the VY site and the immediate environs.

The NRC staff has conducted an environmental audit at the site and has reviewed historic and archaeological records. The NRC staff also contacted eight Native American Tribes identified as having potential interest in the proposed undertaking. To date, no comments have been received.

In the context of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, under which the draft environmental impact statement was prepared, the NRC staff's preliminary determination is that the impact of license renewal on historical and archaeological resources is small and additional mitigation is not warranted. The Governor Hunt House, which is eligible for listing under the National Historic Preservation Act, is located within the APE; however, Entergy has a protective procedure to ensure proper care of the house. Under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the NRC staff's preliminary determination is that there will be no historic properties affected by the proposed action.

J. Lendway

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Please note that the period for public comment expires on March 7, 2007. If your office requires additional time, or if there are any other questions regarding this correspondence, please have your representative contact Mr. Richard L. Emch, Jr., Senior Project Manager, at 301-415-1590 or via email at rle@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Rani Franovich, Branch Chief
Environmental Branch B
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-271

Enclosure:
As stated

J. Lendway

-2-

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Letter to J. Lendway, from Rani Franovich, dated December 13, 2006

SUBJECT: VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION LICENSE RENEWAL
APPLICATION REVIEW (DHP NO. WD03-01)

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