

June 12, 2007

Mr. Theodore A. Sullivan
Site Vice President
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station
P.O. Box 0500
185 Old Ferry Road
Brattleboro, VT 05302-0500

SUBJECT: VERMONT YANKEE OPERATOR AND SENIOR REACTOR OPERATOR
INITIAL EXAMINATION REPORT NO. 05000271/2007-301

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

This report transmits the results of the reactor operator (RO) and senior reactor operator (SRO) licensing examination conducted by the NRC during the period of April 30 - May 8, 2007. This examination addressed areas important to public health and safety and was developed and administered using the guidelines of the "Examination Standards for Power Reactors" (NUREG-1021, Revision 9).

Based on the results of the examination, all 13 applicants passed all portions of the examination. The applicants included 6 ROs, 5 instant SROs, and 2 upgrade SROs. Examination results indicated that the applicants were generally well prepared for the examination. Mr. T. Fish, NRC Chief Examiner, discussed performance insights observed during the examination with Mr. M. Romeo of your training staff on May 8, 2007. On May 31, 2007, final examination results, including individual license numbers, were given during a telephone call between Mr. Fish and Mr. M. Desilets of your staff.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document management system (ADAMS). These records include the final examination and are available in ADAMS (Master File - Accession Number ML062050096; RO and SRO Written Examination with Answer Key - Accession Number ML071410431; Final Section A Operating Exam - Accession Number ML071410436; Final Section B Operating Exam - Accession Number ML071410441; Final Section C Operating Exam - Accession Number ML071410442). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Mr. T. Sullivan

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Should you have any questions regarding this examination, please contact me at (610) 337-5046, or by E-mail at MDS1@NRC.GOV.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Marvin D. Sykes, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No: 50-271
License No: DPR-28

Enclosure: Initial Examination Report No. 05000271/2007-301

Mr. T. Sullivan

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SUNSI Review Complete: MDS (Reviewer's Initials)

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cc w/encl:

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D. Katz, Citizens Awareness Network (CAN)
R. Shadis, New England Coalition Staff
G. Sachs, President/Staff Person, c/o Stopthesale
J. Volz, Chairman, Public Service Board, State of Vermont
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C. Pope, State of New Hampshire, SLO
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J. Giarrusso, SLO, MEMA, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
M. Desilets, Manager, Training and Development

Mr. T. Sullivan

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Distribution w/encl: **(via E-mail)**

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U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION I

Docket No: 50-271

License No: DPR-28

Report No: 05000271/2007-301

Licensee: Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.

Facility: Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station

Dates: 4/27/2007 (Written Examination Administration)
4/30/2007 - 5/8/2007 (Operating Test Administration)
5/9-21/2007 (Examination Grading)

Examiners: T. Fish, Sr. Operations Engineer (Chief Examiner)
G. Johnson, Operations Engineer
B. Haagensen, Operations Engineer
J. Sullivan, Operations Engineer (observer)

Approved by: Marvin D. Sykes, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

ER 05000271/2007301; exam dates 4/27/2007 and 4/30/2007 - 5/8/2007; Vermont Yankee; Initial Operator Licensing Examination. Thirteen of 13 applicants passed the examination (6 reactor operators, 5 SRO instants, and 2 SRO upgrades).

The written examinations were administered by the facility and the operating tests were administered by 3 NRC region-based examiners.

A. Inspector Identified Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

B. Licensee Identified Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

REPORT DETAILS

1. REACTOR SAFETY

Mitigating Systems - Reactor Operator (RO) and Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) Initial License Examination

a. Scope of Review

The NRC examination team developed the written and operating initial examination and together with Vermont Yankee training and operations personnel verified or ensured, as applicable, the following:

- The examination was prepared and developed in accordance with the guidelines of Revision 9 of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." A review was conducted both in the Region I office and at the Vermont Yankee plant and training facility. Final resolution of comments and incorporation of test revisions were conducted during and following the onsite preparation week.
- With one minor exception, simulation facility operation was proper (please see the attached Simulation Facility Report).
- A test item analysis was completed on the written examination for feedback into Vermont Yankee's systems approach to training program.
- Examination security requirements were met.

The NRC examiners administered the operating portion of the examination to all applicants from April 30 to May 8, 2007. The written examination was previously administered by the Vermont Yankee training staff on April 27, 2007.

b. Findings

Grading and Results

All 13 applicants (7 SROs and 6 ROs) passed all portions of the initial licensing examination. The facility had no post-examination comments.

Examination Administration and Performance

The examination team identified one minor simulator fidelity issue, which is detailed in the enclosed Simulation Facility Report.

Enclosure

4OA6 Exit Meeting Summary

On May 31, 2007, the NRC provided conclusions and examination results to Vermont Yankee management representatives via the telephone. License numbers for 12 of 13 applicants were also provided during this time. The license number for the remaining applicant was withheld pending completion of his required six months of non-licensed operator experience. Mr. M. Desilets was informed that when the NRC is notified, in writing, that the six months experience has been completed by this individual, the license can be issued.

The NRC expressed appreciation for the cooperation and assistance that was provided during the preparation and administration of the examination by the licensee's training staff.

ATTACHMENT: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Enclosure

A1-1

ATTACHMENT

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

KEY POINTS OF CONTACT

Licensee Personnel

M. Romeo Manager, Licensed Operator Training
S. Rua Exam Development Lead

LIST OF ITEMS OPENED, CLOSED, AND DISCUSSED

<u>ITEM NUMBER</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
NONE	NA	NA

ES 501 Simulation Facility Report

Facility Licensee: Vermont Yankee
Facility Docket No: 50-271
Operating Tests Administered: 4/30/2007-5/8/2007

This form is used only to report observations. These observations do not constitute audit or inspection findings and, without further verification and review, are not indicative of a noncompliance with 10 CFR 55.45(b). These observations do not affect NRC certification or approval of the simulation facility other than to provide information that may be used in future evaluations. No licensee action is required in response to these observations.

While conducting the simulator portion of the operating test, examiners observed the following item:

During the administration of a simulator JPM that required manual operation of the RCIC system, the examiners noted that RCIC flow to the vessel oscillated between nearly zero system flow and full rated flow. Flow oscillations were unexpected for simulated plant conditions, that is, RCIC flow should have been close to full rated flow and stable. The facility licensee generated Discrepancy Report (DR) 07-0062 to track and troubleshoot the issue.