



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 3, 2010

Vice President, Operations
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station
P.O. Box 250
Governor Hunt Road
Vernon, VT 05354

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO SUPPORT THE REVIEW OF
THE VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION RELIEF REQUEST
VY-ISI-014 (TAC NO. ME2909)

Dear Sir or Madam:

By letter dated December 14, 2009, Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (the licensee) submitted Request for Alternative VY-ISI-014, for the fourth 10-year interval inservice inspection (ISI) program at Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (Vermont Yankee), pursuant to paragraph 50.55a(a)(3)(i) of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR).

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has been reviewing the submittal and has determined that additional information is needed to complete its review. The specific questions are found in the enclosed request for additional information (RAI). A response to this RAI is requested to be provided within 30 days.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Kim".

James Kim, Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch I-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-271

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/encl: Distribution via Listserv

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BY THE OFFICE OF
NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
REQUEST FOR ALTERNATIVE VY-ISI-014 FOR
VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION

Request VY-ISI-014 proposes an alternative to the ISI requirements of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME Code), Section XI, in order to implement the alternative examination requirements of ASME Code Case N-702, "Alternative Requirements for Boiling Water Reactor (BWR) Nozzle Inner Radius and Nozzle-to-Shell Welds, Section XI, Division 1," for several ASME Code Class 1, Examination Category B-D components.

The NRC staff requests that the licensee provide the following additional information concerning this request:

1. Please describe the weld materials from which the subject nozzle welds in VY-ISI-014 were fabricated, including any weld repair materials. The staff notes that nickel alloy weld materials, including weld repairs, are highly susceptible to stress-corrosion cracking in a BWR environment and are, therefore, unacceptable for application of the proposed alternative criteria of ASME Code Case N-702.
2. Please state whether any relevant indications (e.g., flaws that were evaluated under the ASME Code, Section XI, Article IWB-3000, "Acceptance Standards") were found during previous ultrasonic examinations of ASME Code, Section XI, Examination Category B-D components during the current (fourth) 10-year ISI Interval or previous ISI intervals. Describe the nature of any such flaws (e.g., whether the flaws are fabrication flaws or service-induced) and any welds repairs that were implemented for any Examination Category B-D welds.
3. Please state whether the provisions of the ASME Code, Section XI, Appendix VIII, "Performance Demonstration for Ultrasonic Examination Systems" have been and will continue to be used for volumetric examinations of the subject components.

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/ra/

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DATE	6/2/10	6/1/10	6/3/10

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