



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I
475 ALLENDALE ROAD
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406-1415

September 1, 2011

Mr. Michael Colomb
Site Vice President
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station
320 Governor Hunt Road
Vernon, VT 05354

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN -
VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION
(REPORT 05000271/2011006)**

Dear Mr. Colomb:

On August 10, 2011, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed its mid-cycle performance review of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility. This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter will include the NRC's assessment of your performance in the Security Cornerstone and its security-related inspection plan.

The NRC determined the performance at Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because all inspection findings had very low (i.e., green) safety significance, and all PIs indicated that your performance was within the nominal, expected range (i.e., green). Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at your facility. In addition, we have continued our enhanced oversight of Entergy's performance relative to addressing issues associated with the onsite ground water contamination, as described in the ROP Deviation Memorandum dated April 5, 2010 (ML100960321). Reviews related to the Deviation Memorandum are near completion, and will be documented in NRC inspection report 05000271/2011010.

Given the uncertainty regarding plant operations beyond March 2012 due to ongoing reviews and legal proceedings, NRC staff have begun conducting performance reviews for Vermont Yankee at the end of the first and third calendar year quarters, in addition to the traditional mid- and end-of-cycle performance reviews. The purpose of these interim performance reviews is to perform an overall review and assessment of Vermont Yankee performance during the previous four calendar year quarters. Accordingly, the NRC conducted its first quarterly performance review of Vermont Yankee in May and determined that there were no issues associated with the plant's safety performance in the first quarter 2011 that warranted additional attention by the NRC and that ROP baseline inspections would continue at your facility. This review was conducted using guidance

contained in NRC Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 0305, "Operating Reactor Assessment Program." A similar review will be conducted in the November 2011 timeframe for plant performance during the third quarter of 2011.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through December 31, 2012. In addition to the baseline inspections, we have scheduled a review of your proposed commitments made during the license renewal application process. This activity will take place the week of October 17, 2011, and will include an inspector review of Aging Management Program (AMP) implementation. This review will be conducted using IMC 71003, "Post-Approval Site Inspection for License Renewal." An additional inspection of license renewal commitments will be conducted the week of January 23, 2012. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle performance review. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes.

In the days following the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident in Japan, the Commission directed the staff to establish a senior-level agency task force to conduct a methodical and systematic review of the NRC's processes and regulations to determine whether the agency should make additional improvements to its regulatory system. The NRC has since completed Temporary Instruction (TI) 183, "Follow-up to Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Station Fuel Damage Event," and TI-184, "Availability and Readiness Inspection of Severe Accident Management Guidelines (SAMGs)" at your facility. Results of these inspections can be found here: <http://www.nrc.gov/japan/japan-activities.html>. Additionally, on May 11, 2011, the agency issued NRC Bulletin 2011-01, "Mitigating Strategies," to confirm compliance with Order EA-02-026, subsequently imposed license conditions, and 10 CFR 50.54(hh)(2), and to determine the status of licensee mitigating strategies programs. On July 12, 2011, the NRC's Task Force made its recommendations to the Commission in its report, "Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21st Century: The Near-Term Task Force Review of Insights from the Fukushima Daiichi Accident." The NRC is currently reviewing the Task Force's recommendations to determine what additional actions may be warranted.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter 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 system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

M. Colomb

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Please contact Dr. Ronald Bellamy at (610)337-5200 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. M. Dean". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and a distinct "M" and "D".

William M. Dean
Regional Administrator
Region I

Docket Nos. 50-271
License No. DPR-28

Enclosure: Vermont Yankee Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl : Distribution via ListServ

M. Colomb

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Pease contact Dr. Ronald Bellamy at (610)337-5200 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA by David C. Lew Acting For/

William M. Dean
Regional Administrator
Region I

Docket Nos. 50-271
License No. DPR-28

Enclosure: Vermont Yankee Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl: Distribution via ListServ

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DATE	08/31 /11		08/31 /11	08/31/11	08/31/11
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Vermont Yankee
 Inspection / Activity Plan
 07/01/2011 - 12/31/2012

Unit Number	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
			7111121 - CDBI		7
1	06/27/2011	07/01/2011	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection	
			71124-OA - GROUND WATER TEAM INSPECTION		1
1	06/14/2011	07/01/2011	IP 71124.06	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	
			71124 - RETS INSPECTION		1
1	06/27/2011	07/01/2011	IP 71124.06	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	
			71124 - HP-ACCESS / ALARA / PI VERIFICATION		1
1	10/03/2011	10/07/2011	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
1	10/03/2011	10/07/2011	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
1	10/03/2011	10/07/2011	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
1	10/03/2011	10/07/2011	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	
			7111108G - INSERVICE INSPECTION		1
1	10/10/2011	10/14/2011	IP 7111108G	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR	
			71003 - LR COMMITMENTS INSP		4
1	10/17/2011	10/21/2011	IP 71003	Post-Approval Site Inspection for License Renewal	
1	10/17/2011	10/28/2011	IP 71003	Post-Approval Site Inspection for License Renewal	
			71003 - LR COMMITMENTS INSP		6
1	01/23/2012	01/27/2012	IP 71003	Post-Approval Site Inspection for License Renewal	
1	02/06/2012	02/10/2012	IP 71003	Post-Approval Site Inspection for License Renewal	
			9/24EXM - VY INITIAL EXAM		4
1	08/27/2012	08/31/2012	U01851	FY12-VERMONT YANKEE INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSING EXAM	
1	09/24/2012	10/05/2012	U01851	FY12-VERMONT YANKEE INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSING EXAM	
			7111107T - TRIENNIAL HEAT SINK		1
1	05/21/2012	05/25/2012	IP 7111107T	Heat Sink Performance	
			71124 - HP INSTRUMENT		1
1	05/21/2012	05/25/2012	IP 71124.05	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	
			MODS - PERMANENT PLANT MODIFICATIONS		3
1	06/04/2012	06/08/2012	IP 7111117T	Evaluations of Changes, Tests, or Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications	
1	06/18/2012	06/22/2012	IP 7111117T	Evaluations of Changes, Tests, or Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications	
			7111111B - VY ON-SITE REQUAL INSP W/ P/F RESULTS		2
1	08/13/2012	08/17/2012	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program	
			EP PROGR - EP PROGRAM INSPECTION		1
1	08/13/2012	08/17/2012	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing	
1	08/13/2012	08/17/2012	IP 7111403	Emergency Preparedness Organization Staffing and Augmentation System	

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
 This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

**Vermont Yankee
Inspection / Activity Plan**

07/01/2011 - 12/31/2012

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
	Start	End			
EP PROGR - EP PROGRAM INSPECTION					1
1	08/13/2012	08/17/2012	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
1	08/13/2012	08/17/2012	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies	
71124 - HP-ACCESS CONTROL					1
1	08/20/2012	08/24/2012	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
1	08/20/2012	08/24/2012	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
1	08/20/2012	08/24/2012	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
1	08/20/2012	08/24/2012	IP 71124.04	Occupational Dose Assessment	
71124 - TRANSPORTATION					1
1	10/22/2012	10/26/2012	IP 2515/173	Review of the Implementation of the Industry Ground Water Protection Voluntary Initiative	
1	10/22/2012	10/26/2012	IP 71124.08	Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation	
1	10/22/2012	10/26/2012	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
1	10/22/2012	10/26/2012	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	

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