

October 28, 2015

Mr. Perry Plummer, Director
New Hampshire Department of Safety
Homeland Security and
Emergency Management
33 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03305

SUBJECT: TERMINATION OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE DATA SYSTEM FEED FOR
VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION

Dear Mr. Plummer:

This letter serves to notify the State of New Hampshire that Entergy Nuclear Operations (Entergy) is in the process of terminating the Emergency Response Data System (ERDS) link from the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (VY) to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Operations Center, based on the permanently shut-down status of the facility.

Section VI of Appendix E to Part 50 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) establishes the requirement for a nuclear power reactor licensee to have a real-time electronic data link from the licensee's onsite computer system to the NRC Operations Center that provides for the automated transmission of a limited data set of selected parameters. The Final Memorandum of Understanding between the NRC and the State of New Hampshire, contained in Volume 59, No. 199 (Page 52321) of the *Federal Register* dated October 17, 1994, provides the basis for mutually agreeable procedures whereby the State of New Hampshire may utilize the NRC ERDS to receive data during an emergency at a commercial nuclear power plant for which any portion of the plant's 10-mile emergency planning zone lies within the State of New Hampshire.

By letter dated September 23, 2013 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML13273A204), Entergy provided notification to the NRC of its intent to permanently cease power operations at VY. By letter dated January 12, 2015, Entergy submitted certifications, pursuant to 10 CFR paragraphs 50.82 (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii), of the permanent cessation of power operations, the permanent removal of fuel from the VY reactor vessel, and the placement of the fuel in the spent fuel pool (ADAMS Accession No. ML15013A426). Upon docketing of these certifications, the 10 CFR Part 50 license for VY no longer authorizes operation of the reactor or emplacement or retention of fuel into the reactor vessel, as specified in 10 CFR 50.82(a)(2).

Nuclear power facilities that have permanently or indefinitely shut down are excepted from the requirements to have an ERDS data link to the NRC (see Section VI.2 of Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50). As such, Entergy has revised VY's procedures, under 10 CFR 50.54(q), to remove the requirement to activate the ERDS data transmission within 1 hour of an emergency declared as an alert or higher classification.

The termination of the ERDS link for VY does not impact the licensee's responsibility to provide State and local authorities with recommendations and advice on off-site action that they may consider to protect their citizenry. Also, Entergy is still required to provide notification to off-site authorities for an emergency declaration and provide information on facility status to support the assessment of a potential radiological release at the facility.

Finally, the termination of the ERDS link with VY will not impact the State of New Hampshire's ability to continue to receive plant information via the ERDS link for incidents related to the Seabrook Power Station.

If you have any questions regarding the termination of the ERDS link for VY, or continued interface with the NRC for an event at VY, please contact Bezakulu Alemu at (301) 287-3731 or by email at Bezakulu.Alemu@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Robert J. Lewis, Director
Division of Preparedness and Response
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response

cc: Diane Becker, Chief of Technological
Hazards, New Hampshire Department
of Safety, Homeland Security and
Emergency Management
Raymond Powell, Chief, Decommissioning &
Technical Support Branch, NRC,
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Nancy McNamara, Regional State
Liaison Officer, NRC, Region RI

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Division of Preparedness and Response
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response

cc: Diane Becker, Chief of Technological Hazards, New Hampshire Department of Safety, Homeland Security and Emergency Management
Raymond Powell, Chief, Decommissioning & Technical Support Branch, NRC, Region I
Nancy McNamara, Regional State Liaison Officer, NRC, Region RI

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ADAMS ACCESSION NO.: ML1527A151

***via e-mail**

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