

October 28, 2015

Mr. Kurt Schwartz, Director
Massachusetts Emergency
Management Agency
400 Worcester Road
Framingham, MA 01702-5399

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

Dear Mr. Schwartz:

This letter serves to notify the Commonwealth of Massachusetts 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 Commonwealth of Massachusetts, contained in Volume 58, No. 132 (Page 37761) of the *Federal Register* dated July 19, 1993, provides the basis for mutually agreeable procedures whereby the Commonwealth of Massachusetts 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 Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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 Commonwealth of Massachusetts' ability to continue to receive plant information via the ERDS link for incidents related to both the Seabrook and Pilgrim Power Stations.

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: John Giarrusso, Planning and
Preparedness Division Chief,
Massachusetts Emergency
Management Agency
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.: ML15127A166

***via e-mail**

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