

Quintero, Jessie

From: Quintero, Jessie
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2017 6:58 AM
To: 'laura.trieschmann@vermont.gov'
Subject: FYI: No effects determination for NRC's review of an exemption request for Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station
Attachments: SHPO Ltr re VYNPS Exemption re Load Campaign.pdf

Good afternoon Ms. Trieschmann,

I am supporting the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's environmental review of an exemption request related to the loading of spent nuclear fuel at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station. I am submitting the attached letter to the Vermont State Historic Preservation Officer that explains the exemption request as well as our determination that there is no effect on historic and cultural properties. Our determination of no effects will be documented in the Environmental Assessment we are preparing for the exemption request.

If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call or email me. My contact information is below.

Thank you,

Jessie Muir Quintero

Jessie Muir Quintero

Project Manager, NMSS/FCSE/ERB
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Phone: 301.415.7476
Office: TWFN 4-D56
Mailstop: TWFN 4-B16
Email: Jessie.Muir-Quintero@NRC.gov

September 14, 2017

Ms. Laura Trieschmann
State Historic Preservation Officer
Department of Housing and
Community Development
Division of Historic Preservation

SUBJECT: SECTION 106 OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT "NO EFFECTS" DETERMINATION FOR VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION INDEPENDENT SPENT FUEL STORAGE INSTALLATION EXEMPTION REQUEST FROM CASK SPECIFICATIONS (DOCKET NOS.: 72-1014, 72-59, 50-271)

Dear Ms. Trieschmann:

By letter dated May 16, 2017, Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (ENO) submitted a request to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for an exemption, in accordance with Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) 72.7, from the requirements of 10 CFR 72.212(a)(2), 72.212(b)(3), 72.212(b)(5)(i), 72.214, and the portion of 72.212(b)(11) that requires compliance with the terms, conditions, and specifications of the Certificate of Compliance (CoC) No. 72-1014 for spent fuel storage at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (VYNPS) independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI). This exemption would allow (1) the use of an optional regionalized loading pattern for the multipurpose canister (MPC)-68; (2) loading fuel that has been cooled for at least two years to be loaded into the canister, as compared to the current minimum cooling time of three years; and (3) the establishment of a per-cell maximum average burnup limit at 65,000 megawatt days per metric ton of uranium, as compared to the current condition of calculating from an equation.

As established in Title 10 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 51, the NRC regulation that implements the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the NRC is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed action. The purpose of the EA is to assess potential environmental impacts that may significantly affect the human environment. The EA will include an analysis of potential impacts to historic and cultural resources.

The NRC staff consulted in 2006 with the Vermont State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) during the NRC's environmental review for VYNPS' license renewal, which involved the potential impacts from continued operation of VYNPS. The VYNPS license renewal Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) stated (p. 4-38):

A search of the Vermont SHPO files for the region around the VYNPS shows that the region is highly sensitive for archaeological remains. While no prehistoric archaeological sites have been identified on the VYNPS property, the Governor Hunt House is a historically significant property owned and managed by the plant operator. The area around the house has the potential to contain buried remains associated with the Governor Hunt House. Additionally, the VYNPS property is located on the floodplain of the Connecticut River, which has the potential to contain deeply buried archaeological deposits.

The VYNPS license renewal SEIS can be found online at: <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1437/supplement30/>.

The requested exemption request, if granted, would not alter the process for loading spent nuclear fuel into casks or the location of the loading process. Fuel loading occurs within an existing building, which would not be altered as a result of this exemption request. The exemption would not authorize new construction or land-disturbing activities. Therefore, there is no direct nexus to the natural environment that could affect historic or cultural resources, including the Governor Hunt House. The NRC staff, therefore, concludes that the proposed exemption request would have no effect on historic and cultural properties. Federal agencies have no further obligation under Section 106 if the undertaking does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties, however, the NRC is sending this letter to inform the Vermont SHPO of our “no effects” determination.

The exemption request is publicly available from the NRC’s Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), accessible at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. The ADAMS Accession Number for the exemption request is ML17142A354.

If you have any questions, please contact me at Jessie.Muir-Quintero@nrc.gov, or by telephone at 301-415-7476.

Sincerely,
Jessie Muir Quintero, Project Manager
Environmental Review Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety, Safeguards
and Environmental Review
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards