

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION

SEVENTY SEVEN GROVE STREET
RUTLAND, VERMONT 05701

B.3.2.1
WVY 79-145

REPLY TO:
ENGINEERING OFFICE
TURNPIKE ROAD
WESTBORO, MASSACHUSETTS 01581
TELEPHONE 617-366-9011

December 20, 1979

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Attention: Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Thomas A. Ippolito, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #3
Division of Operating Reactors

- References: 1) License No. DPR-28 (Docket No. 50-271).
2) Letter, S. Ragone (VEPCo) to R. Baer (NRC), dated October 22, 1979.
3) Letter, R. H. Groce (VYNPC) to G. Lear (NRC), WVY 78-53, dated June 7, 1979.

Subject: Notice of Intention to Use RETRAN for Reload Licensing in 1981

Dear Sirs:

Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation, acting through the Nuclear Services Division of Yankee Atomic Electric Company (YNSD), is committed to the development of Boiling Water Reactor safety analysis methods. The individual directing this effort is Dr. Joseph C. Turnage, manager of the Nuclear Engineering and Development department in YNSD. A major component of the program is the reactor transient analysis code, RETRAN, which is being developed under the sponsorship of the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). A large number of utilities intend to use RETRAN in their licensing-related activities, and a request for a generic review of RETRAN has been sent to the Commission on their behalf (Reference 1). We encourage you to begin the review process at your earliest convenience. We expect that since RETRAN is based on the RELAP code, which has been extensively applied in safety work, the review process should not require a large amount of NRC resources. Many NRC staff personnel were introduced to RETRAN at an information meeting held in Bethesda on May 3, 1979, and presentations on the application of RETRAN have been made at many technical society meetings since then.

The accident at TMI has highlighted the importance of utility participation in the licensing process. Utility use of the RETRAN code will result in better understanding of reactor transients, leading to better operator training programs, plant-unique analysis to supplement vendor generic evaluations, and the earlier resolution of safety concerns. In fact, RETRAN

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Mr. Thomas Ippolito

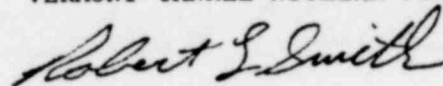
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has already been used to address safety concerns by VYNPC (Reference 2), and other utilities. An early, favorable SER by your Staff will certainly result in even more utility interest and involvement in safety evaluations.

VYNPC current plans call for the use of RETRAN as an integral part of a package of codes to be used for reload licensing analysis by 1981. We would like to hold a meeting with members of your staff during the week of January 24-28, 1980 to discuss these plans in detail in the interest of expediting the entire review process.

Very truly yours,

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORP.



Robert L. Smith
Vermont Yankee Licensing Engineer

RLS/nj

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