



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION I  
631 PARK AVENUE  
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406

CENTRAL FILES

Docket No. 50-271

JAN 14 1980


Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation  
ATTN: Mr. Robert H. Groce  
Licensing Engineer  
20 Turnpike Road  
Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is IE Bulletin 79-01B which requires action by you with regard to your power reactor facility with an operating license.

Should you have questions regarding this Bulletin or the actions required of you, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

  
Boyce H. Grier  
Director

Enclosures:

1. IE Bulletin No. 79-01B with Attachments
2. List of Recently Issued IE Bulletins

CONTACT: S. D. Ebner  
(215-337-5296)

cc w/encls:

W. F. Conway, Plant Superintendent  
Ms. J. Abbey, Technical Secretary

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ENCLOSURE 1

UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

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IE Bulletin No. 79-01B  
Date: January 14, 1980  
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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALIFICATION OF CLASS IE EQUIPMENT

Description of Circumstances:

IE Bulletin No. 79-01 required the licensee to perform a detailed review of the environmental qualification of Class IE electrical equipment to ensure that the equipment will function under (i.e. during and following) postulated accident conditions.

The NRC staff has completed the initial review of licensees' responses to Bulletin No. 79-01. Based on this review, additional information is needed to facilitate completion of the NRC evaluation of the adequacy of environmental qualification of Class IE electrical equipment in the operating facilities. In addition to requesting more detailed information, the scope of this Bulletin is expanded to resolve safety concerns relating to design basis environments and current qualification criteria not addressed in the facilities' FSARS. These include high energy line breaks (HELB) inside and outside primary containment, aging, and submergence.

Attachment 4, "GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATING ENVIRONMENTAL QUALIFICATION OF CLASS IE ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT IN OPERATING REACTORS", provides the guidelines and criteria the staff will use in evaluating the adequacy of the licensee's Class IE equipment evaluation in response to this Bulletin.

In general, the reporting problems encountered in the original responses and the additional information needed can be grouped into the following areas:

1. All Class IE electrical equipment required to function under the postulated accident conditions, both inside and outside primary containment, was not included in the responses.
2. In many cases, the specific information requested by the Bulletin for each component of Class IE equipment was not reported.
3. Different methods and/or formats were used in providing the written evidence of Class IE electrical equipment qualifications. Some licensees used the System Analysis Method which proved to be the most effective approach. This method includes the following:
  - a. Identification of the protection under postulated accident conditions as defined as the from both LOCA and/or HELB inside and outside the primary containment

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