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VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION

SEVENTY SEVEN GROVE STREET
RUTLAND, VERMONT 05701

B.3.2.1
WVY 80-74

May 8, 1980

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

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Attention: Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

References: (a) License No. DPR-28 (Docket No. 50-271)
(b) VYNPC Letter (WVY 79-25) to USNRC dated March 2, 1979.
(c) VYNPC Letter (WVY 80-16) to USNRC dated January 21, 1980.

Subject: Primary Containment Leak Rate Testing

Dear Sir:

As a result of failing two consecutive Type A tests, in 1974 and 1978, Section III.A.6(b) of Appendix J requires that Type A tests continue to be performed at each refueling outage until two consecutive tests meet the acceptance criteria.

This letter is written pursuant to 10CFR50.12 to formally request an exemption from the testing requirements specified in Section III.A.6(b) of Appendix J to 10CFR50.

Vermont Yankee submitted a similar request for exemption to the NRC in 1979 (Reference (b)), because we felt that increasing the frequency of Type A testing without focusing attention on the cause(s) of the inability to meet the acceptance criteria does not necessarily provide greater assurance of continuing containment integrity. That request for exemption was subsequently denied. A telephone conversation was initiated on April 18, 1979 to allow additional discussion between the NRC staff (V. Rooney, J. Huang) and cognizant VY personnel regarding the NRC's denial of the exemption request. During that conversation, Mr. Huang stated that implementation of the Corrective Action Plan along with successful completion of a 1979 Type A test would provide a favorable data base that might preclude the necessity for performing a Type A Test in 1980.

Vermont Yankee did implement a Corrective Action Plan which focused attention on the cause of the 1978 test failure and, as documented in Reference (c), successfully passed the Type A test conducted during the 1979 refueling outage.

As was the case previously, this exemption request endorses the Corrective Action Plan as an acceptable alternative to the aforementioned testing requirement of Appendix J to 10CFR50. We trust that the information provided above, along with the referenced material is sufficient to allow for your review and approval of our request.

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

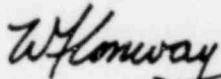
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Should you require additional clarification or information, please feel free to contact us. Since this exemption request has a direct impact on planning for the 1980 Refueling Outage, presently scheduled for September, 1980, we would appreciate an expeditious response.

We have determined that the staff review of this proposal requires an approval that involves a single safety issue and is deemed not to involve a significant hazards consideration. For these reasons, Vermont Yankee proposes this request for exemption as a Class III submittal. A payment of \$4,000.00 is enclosed.

Very truly yours,

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION



W. F. Conway
Vice President

RJW/hm