

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION

SEVENTY SEVEN GROVE STREET  
RUTLAND, VERMONT 05701

B.3.2.1  
VY 80-176

REPLY TO:  
ENGINEERING OFFICE  
TURNPIKE ROAD  
WESTBORO, MASSACHUSETTS 01581  
TELEPHONE 517-366-9011

December 30, 1980

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

Attention: Darrell G. Eisenhut, Director  
Division of Licensing

- References:
- (a) License No. DPR-28 (Docket No. 50-271)
  - (b) Letter, H.R. Denton to All Operating Nuclear Power Plants, dated October 30, 1979
  - (c) NUREG-0737
  - (d) Letter, L.D. Marschais to USNRC Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, dated September 29, 1980
  - (e) INPO Document, "Nuclear Power Plant Shift Technical Advisor - Recommendations for Position Descriptions, Qualifications, Education, and Training"
  - (f) VYAP 0470, "Shift Technical Advisor Training"
  - (g) VYNPC Letter (WVY 80-170) to USNRC, dated December 15, 1980

Subject: Response to NUREG-0737 Item I.A.1.1.(4)

Dear Sir:

Item I.A.1.1. of Reference (c) requires that all operating licensees provide a description of their STA program and plans for requalification training, indicating the levels of training attained by STA's by January 1, 1981 and demonstrating conformance with the qualification and training requirements in Reference (b). It further requires a description of long-term STA programs including qualifications, selection criteria, training plans, a comparison of the licensed program with Reference (e), and any plans for the eventual phase-out of the STA program.

As specified in Reference (d), Vermont Yankee, as of January 1, 1980, had placed on shift, STA's consisting of 13 degreed individuals with plant experience and STA-specific training provided by General Electric Company and the Vermont Yankee staff. In parallel with this effort, a program was established to hire and extensively train a group of engineers to ultimately fill the STA role. Hiring of this group has been completed, as has some training, with the projected completion date remaining June 1, 1981.

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The individuals currently serving as STA's all have, at a minimum, Bachelor of Science degrees in scientific or engineering disciplines. All have also successfully completed eighty hours of training provided by the General Electric Company consisting of instruction and testing in the areas of reactor physics, thermodynamics, heat transfer, thermal hydraulics, core power response, thermal limits, chemistry, fuel and materials, and instrumentation and control. All have also been actively reviewing NRC bulletins, letters, and circulars; INPO notices, GE SILs, and plant information reports as well as other information pertinent to the STA function. This training, together with the plant experience of these 13 individuals, partially fulfills the requirements for qualification and training set forth in Reference (b).

In order to completely conform with the requirements for qualification and training set forth in Reference (b), an administrative procedure, Reference (f), defining an STA training program and specifying qualifications for entry into the program, has been written and is currently in the review process. A group of seven engineers who have been hired to ultimately fill the STA role, will have completed the requirements of this procedure by the estimated date of June 1, 1981.

Selection criteria for this group included a bachelor's degree or the equivalent in a scientific or engineering discipline, as well as nuclear-related work experience. As of January 1, 1981, this group will have completed Vermont Yankee-specific systems training, as well as training in thermal hydraulics, reactor physics, and a mathematics review. Training to be completed by the estimated date of June 1, 1981 includes additional reactor physics and thermal sciences, and training in health physics, reactor chemistry, electrical and materials sciences, management and supervisory skills, instrumentation and control, STA-specific simulator training, and training in pertinent procedures, technical specifications, and state and federal regulations. By completing this training, individuals possessing the qualifications specified in Reference (f) will meet or exceed the requirements of Reference (b).

Annual requalification for individuals serving as STA is set forth in Reference (f) includes STA-specific classroom training, participation in simulator exercises, and a review of pertinent documents and information. Also planned but not specified in Reference (f) is operations training and training for mitigating core damage under accident and transient conditions as required by NUREG-0737, Item II.B.4.

Qualification requirements consist of satisfactory performance in training as specified in Reference (f).

Reference (f) was written in accordance with the recommendations of Reference (e), and meets or exceeds these recommendations. The Vermont Yankee STA training program was audited and found to be acceptable by an INPO audit team in June, 1980.

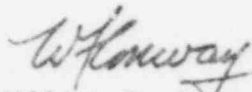
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At present, no plans exist for phasing out the STA program at Vermont Yankee.

We trust that this information is satisfactory; however, should you desire additional information, please contact us.

Very truly yours,

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION



William F. Conway  
Vice President and  
Manager of Operations

WFC/dm