

Docket No. 50-271

JAN 5 1990

Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation
ATTN: Mr. Warren P. Murphy
Vice President and Manager
of Operations
RD 5, Box 169
Ferry Road
Brattleboro, Vermont 05301

Gentlemen:

Subject: LICENSED OPERATOR REPLACEMENT EXAMINATIONS, REQUALIFICATION PROGRAM
EVALUATION, AND BWR POWER OSCILLATIONS INSPECTION, COMBINED REPORT
NO. 50-271/89-18 (OL)

During the week of October 23, 1989, replacement examinations were administered to employees of your company who had applied for licenses to operate the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station. Also, during the week of November 6, 1989, the NRC conducted a requalification program evaluation. The evaluation was conducted in accordance with NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examiner Standards," Rev. 5, Section ES-601, "Administration of NRC Requalification Program Evaluations." The evaluation had two purposes: (1) to evaluate individual licensed operator competency; and (2) to evaluate the effectiveness of the licensed operator training program.

As a result of the replacement examination, all three applicants passed all portions of the examination and have been issued Senior Reactor Operator licenses. As a result of the requalification program evaluation, the Vermont Yankee program has been rated as satisfactory. NRC results indicate that all six senior reactor operators and all six reactor operators passed all portions of the examination. In addition, all three crews examined were rated as satisfactory.

Also, during the weeks of October 23 and November 6, 1989, an inspection was conducted to evaluate the implementation of NRC Bulletin 88-07 and Supplement 1, BWR Power Oscillations. All procedure revisions were found to be satisfactory, however, deficiencies were noted with respect to the knowledge level of several licensed operators on these procedure revisions. The deficiencies dealt with the knowledge of the entry conditions and immediate operator actions as stated in your plant procedures for power oscillation events. These knowledge deficiencies indicated a weakness in the process of assuring operator knowledge of major procedure revisions. You should focus your attention to Section 4 of this report.

At the conclusion of the requalification program, evaluation, generic findings with respect to the replacement examination, the requalification program evaluation, and the BWR power oscillation program inspection were discussed with members of your staff identified in the enclosed report.

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the Commission's regulations, a copy of this letter and the enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Should you have any questions regarding this evaluation, please contact Mr. R. Conte, Chief, BWR Section, at (215) 337-5210.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Robert M. Gallo, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Enclosures:

1. Licensed Operator Replacement Examination, Requalification Program Evaluation, and BWR Power Oscillation Program Inspection, Combined Report No. 50-271/89-18 (OL)
2. Attachment 1, Persons Contacted
3. Attachment 2, Written Replacement Examination and Answer Key
4. Attachment 3, Facility Formal Comments on Written Replacement Examination
5. Attachment 4, NRC response to Facility Formal Comments on Written Replacement Examination
6. Attachment 5, Requalification Examination Test Items
7. Attachment 6, Simulator Fidelity Report

cc: w/encls:

J. Weigand, President and Chief Executive Officer
J. Pelletier, Plant Manager
J. DeVincentis, Vice President, Yankee Atomic Electric Company
R. Capstick, Licensing Engineer, Yankee Atomic Electric Company
J. Gilroy, Director, Vermont Public Interest Research Group, Inc.
G. LeClair, Training Manager
C. Sterzinger, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Public Service
P. Agnes, Assistant Secretary of Public Safety, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Public Document Room (PDR)
Local Public Document Room (LPDR)
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
NRC Resident Inspector
State of New Hampshire, SLO Designee
State of Vermont, SLC Designee
Commonwealth of Massachusetts, SLO Designee


bcc w/enclosures; without attachments 1-6:
Project Manager, NRR
DRP Section Chief
Region I Docket Room (w concurrences)

bcc w/enclosures and attachments:
R. Conte, DRS
N. Conicella, DRS (with all attachments)
T. Fish, DRS (with all attachments)
Master Replacement Exam File (with all attachments)
Master Regualification Exam File (with all attachments)
DRS File (3)

bcc w/o enclosures; w/o attachments:
Management Assistant, DRMA (w/o enclosure)

RI:DRS
Fish/ajk
TF
12/19/89

RI:DRS
Conte
TF for RSC
12/29/89
12/14/90


RI:DRS
Gallo
1/4/89
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