

Docket No. 50-271

JUL 21 1981

Mr. Robert L. Smith
Licensing Engineer
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power
Corporation
1671 Worcester Road
Framingham, Massachusetts 01701

Dear Mr. Smith:

By letter dated May 12, 1981 you requested permission to use the Shift Technical Advisor as Fire Brigade Leader through July 30, 1982.

After much consideration, we still do not approve of the Shift Technical Advisor (STA) as team leader of the fire brigade. Our position is based on the attitude that the STA's primary function is to provide technical expertise to the control room immediately upon the event of a transient or an accident, and fires have areal potential of causing a transient. If the STA were designated as a leader of the fire brigade, he would not be able to reppond to control room needs since he would be occupied with fire-fighting duties. We feel that the use of the STA on the fire brigade is not compatible with the intended responsibilities of the STA in the control room at the time of a potential transient or accident.

Nevertheless, we recognize the difficulties in providing trained staff for the fire brigade, therefore, we are reluctantly willing to permit the interim use of the Shift Technical Advisor (STA) on the fire brigade. However, we will only permit this until such time as the licensee can replace the STA with an acceptable individual and in no case later than July 1, 1982. It is at this time that the increased staffing requirements specified in NUREG-0737, "Clarification of TMI Action Plan Requirements" will take effect.

Also by July 1, 1982 in accordance with NUREG-0654, each shift must have, in addition to the four licensed and two unlicensed operators and the STA, a communicator (who may also provide administrative assistance to the Shift Supervisor), one health physics technician and one radiation/chemistry technician, for a total minimum shift complement of ten people exclusive of the plant security force.

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In our view, any of these ten individuals, except for the Shift Supervisor,, the Shift Technical Advisor, one Control Room Operator, and one Auxiliary Operator, are available to serve as members of the fire brigade.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
T. A. Ippolito

Thomas A. Ippolito, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #2
Division of Licensing

cc: See next page

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