

AUG 11 1994

DES

Docket No. 50-271

Mr. Donald A. Reid
Vice President, Operations
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation
RD 5, Box 169
Ferry Road
Brattleboro, Vermont 05301

Dear Mr. Reid:

SUBJECT: INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-271/94-16

This letter transmits the report of the announced safety inspection conducted by Mr. Aniello L. Della Greca of this office and Mr. John Hanek, a NRC contractor, for the period of July 11-15, 1994, at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station in Vernon, Vermont. The inspection included a review of activities authorized for your Vermont Yankee facility. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with Mr. Robert J. Wanczyk and other members of your staff, as identified in the enclosed report.

The inspection was directed toward areas important to public health and safety. Areas examined during this inspection are described in the NRC inspection report enclosed with this letter and included the actions taken by Vermont Yankee in response to NRC Bulletin 90-01 and Bulletin 90-01, Supplement 1, "Loss of Fill-Oil in Transmitters Manufactured by Rosemount." Within this scope, the inspection consisted of selective examinations of design documents, procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observations by the inspector.

The inspectors determined that your actions, taken to address the loss of fill-oil concern, were generally acceptable. However, weaknesses associated with the transmitter enhanced monitoring program were noted. For instance, no trending of operational data was being performed, and the calibration procedures contained no instructions to the technicians on how to test for, and identify a loss of, fill-oil. In addition, your current tracking program does not meet the intent of Bulletin 90-01, Supplement 1 requirements regarding the ability to identify loss of fill-oil failures. For this item we request that you inform the NRC of how your future monitoring program will maintain the ability to detect failures.

In an unrelated issue, the inspectors found that the results of a setpoint calculation had not been reflected in the FSAR and technical specifications. The justification provided for this discrepancy implied that technical specification limits were based on normal operating

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AUG 11 1994

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conditions While this particular issue did not appear to have safety consequences, it was a concern in that other technical specification limits could be affected by your definition method. This item was unresolved, pending your review and action to ensure that technical specification limits are properly defined.

Management attention is necessary to ensure that the identified issues and weaknesses are addressed and that loss of transmitter fill-oil conditions are promptly identified and corrected to maintain a high level of instrumentation reliability.

Your cooperation with us in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

William H. Ruland, Chief
Electrical Section
Division of Reactor Safety

Enclosure: Inspection Report No. 50-271/94-16
w/Attachment 1

cc w/encl:

R. Wanczyk, Plant Manager
J. Thayer, Vice President, Yankee Atomic Electric Company
L. Tremblay, Senior Licensing Engineer, Yankee Atomic Electric Company
J. Gilroy, Director, Vermont Public Interest Research Group, Inc.
D. Tefft, Administrator, Bureau of Radiological Health, State of New Hampshire
Chief, Safety Unit, Office of the Attorney General, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
R. Gad, Esquire
G. Bisbee, Esquire
R. Sedano, Vermont Department of Public Service
T. Rapone, Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety
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