

DEC 03 1991

Docket No. 50-271
EA 91-170

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

Dear Mr. Murphy:

Subject: Inspection Report No. 50-271/91-21

This letter refers to the safety inspection conducted by Mr. A. L. Della Greca of this office on August 6-9, 1991 at the plant site in Vernon, Vermont. Mr. Della Greca discussed the inspection findings with Mr. R. J. Wanczyk and other members of your staff on August 9, 1991, at the site, and on August 22, 1991, via telephone. The findings were further discussed, by telephone, with Mr. D. Reed and other members of your staff on November 25, 1991 during a continuation of the exit interview.

The purpose of the inspection was to review the status of your proposed corrective actions in response to the April 23, 1991 loss of offsite power event and as followup to the AIT inspection conducted on April 25-29, 1991. Specific areas examined during this inspection are described in the Inspection Report that is enclosed with this letter. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examination of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observations by the inspector.

The NRC also reviewed several unresolved issues relating to the plant's surveillance and maintenance activities. All items were technically closed. However, two of the activities pertaining to the service water discharge valve lineup and to the replacement of switchyard battery 4A were determined to be apparent violations of the 10 CFR 50.59 requirements. The NRC is considering these apparent violations for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions" (Enforcement Policy), 10CFR Part 2, Appendix C (1991). Accordingly, no Notice of Violation is presently being issued for these inspection findings. An enforcement conference to discuss these apparent violations has been tentatively scheduled for December 16, 1991, in the NRC Region I office. The purposes of this conference are to discuss the apparent violations, their causes and safety significance; to provide you the opportunity to point out any errors in our inspection report; to provide an opportunity for you to present your proposed corrective actions; and to discuss any other information that will help us determine the appropriate enforcement action in accordance with the

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DEC 03 1991

Vermont Yankee Nuclear
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Enforcement Policy. Pertaining to the valve lineup change, at the enforcement conference, you should be prepared to discuss (1) whether Vermont Yankee operated in an unanalyzed condition during the 1987-1991 period; (2) the need for a 10CFR 50.59 review at the time of the valve lineup change in 1987; (3) the adequacy of the PORC review in conjunction with the request for changing the limit of the service water flow through the emergency diesel from 90% to 60-90%; (4) the adequacy of the 1987 engineering evaluation of the valve lineup change; (5) the relationship of these 10CFR 50.59 concerns with other safety evaluations performed during the past few years; and (6) the basis for acceptability of the service water system valve lineup that will be used this winter at Vermont Yankee.

You will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter. No response regarding these apparent violations is required at this time.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:
Marvin W. Hodges

Marvin W. Hodges, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Enclosure: NRC Region I Inspection Report No. 50-271/91-21

cc w/encl:

J. Weigand, President and Chief Executive Officer
J. Pelletier, Vice President, Engineering
D. Reid, Plant Manager
J. DeVincentis, Vice President, Yankee Atomic Electric Company
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J. Gilroy, Director, Vermont Public Interest Research Group, Inc.
G. Iverson, New Hampshire Office of Emergency Management
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Local Public Document Room (LPDR)
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K. Abraham, (2) All Inspection Reports
NRC Resident Inspector
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State of Vermont, SLO Designee
Commonwealth of Massachusetts, SLO Designee

DEC 03 1991

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3

bcc w/encl:

Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)

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