

May 22, 1984

Docket No. 50-271

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Mr. J. B. Sinclair
Licensing Engineer
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation
1671 Worcester Road
Framingham, Massachusetts 01701

Dear Mr. Sinclair:

SUBJECT: CONTAINMENT VENT VALVE OPERABILITY

Re: Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station

In our letter of November 29, 1978, we identified the generic concerns of purging and venting of containment to all operating reactor licensees and requested your response to these concerns. Our review of your response was interrupted by the TMI accident and its demands on staff resources. Consequently, an Interim Position on containment purging and venting was transmitted to you by letter dated November 9, 1979. You were requested to implement short-term corrective actions to remain in effect pending completion of our longer term review of your response to our November 29, 1978 letter.

One of the remaining interim corrective actions (and the subject of this letter) still in place while our longer term review is being completed is to:

"Maintain the containment purge and vent isolation valves closed whenever the reactor is not in the cold shutdown or refueling mode until such time as you can show that:

- a. All isolation valves greater than 3" nominal diameter used for containment purge and venting operations are operable under the most severe design basis accident flow condition loading and can close within the time limit stated in your Technical Specifications, design criteria or operating procedures. The operability of butterfly valves may, on an interim basis, be demonstrated by limiting the valve to be no more than 30° to 50° open (90° being full open). The maximum opening shall be determined in consultation with the valve supplier. The valve opening must be such that the critical valve parts will not be damaged by DBA-LOCA loads and that the valve will tend to close when the fluid dynamic forces are introduced."

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Mr. J. B. Sinclair

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Your letter of January 21, 1980, provided your commitment to operate in conformance with this Interim Position pending completion of our long-term review of valve operability.

We have completed our review of the analysis you submitted in your letters dated May 21, 1981, March 26, 1982 and June 22, 1982, concerning operability of valves over three inches in diameter used in the containment vent and purge systems at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station. Our evaluation is enclosed. We find that the information submitted has satisfactorily demonstrated the ability of the containment purge and vent valves at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station to close against the buildup of containment pressure in the event of a DBA/LOCA.

The enclosed Safety Evaluation is based on valves V16-19-7 and V16-19-7A being blocked at 50° open. Within 60 days of the date of this letter, please provide proposed Technical Specifications for valves V16-19-7 and V16-19-7A limiting the opening of the valves to 50° open, using the sample Technical Specifications enclosed in our December 8, 1981 letter as a model.

We also wish to inform you that it is not necessary that you respond to our request for additional information transmitted to you by letter dated December 10, 1982 for the following reasons. The first item in this request is the seismic issue and has been addressed as stated above. The second and third items were resolved at Allis Chambers in York, PA on November 17, 1983. On that date a member of the Brookhaven National Laboratory staff examined work being performed by Allis Chambers for Vermont Yankee. The correct torque value for the 8" valve was established and the proper combinations of loads for the purge valves confirmed.

The reporting and/or recordkeeping requirements contained in this letter affect fewer than ten respondents; therefore, OMB clearance is not required under P.L. 96-511.

Sincerely,

Original signed by/

Domenic B. Vassallo, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #2
Division of Licensing

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/enclosure:

See next page

*Please see previous concurrence page.

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DL:ORB#2

DL:ORB#1

DL:ORB#2

SNorris:ajs*

VRooney*

EReeves*

DVassallo

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Mr. J. B. Sinclair
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station

cc:

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