

JUN 08 1984

Docket No. 50-271

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: Inspection Report No. 50-271/84-08

This refers to the inspection conducted by Mr. W. J. Raymond of this office on April 3 - May 7, 1984, at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station, Vernon, Vermont, of activities authorized by NRC License No. DPR-28 and to the discussions of our findings held by Mr. W. J. Raymond with Mr. J. P. Pelletier of your staff at the conclusion of the inspection.

Areas examined during this inspection are described in the NRC Region I Inspection Report which is enclosed with this letter. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observations by the inspector.

Based on the results of this inspection, it appears that certain of your activities were not conducted in full compliance with NRC requirements, as set forth in the Notice of Violation, enclosed herewith as Appendix A. These violations have been categorized by severity level in accordance with the revised NRC Enforcement Policy (10 CFR 2, Appendix C), published in the Federal Register on March 8, 1984 (49 FR 8583). You are required to respond to this letter and in preparing your response, you should follow the instructions in Appendix A.

One concern discussed in the enclosed Notice involves the violation of the High Pressure Coolant Injection (HPCI) system operability requirements during the period from April 16 - 20, 1984. The violation was caused, in part, by a HPCI instrumentation design that allows the HPCI high level isolation logic to remain in a tripped condition after the initiating condition has cleared, without providing indication of its status to the reactor operator. In your response to this letter, you should address the results of your evaluations regarding this design feature and any applicable design changes that may be deemed necessary.

The HPCI system violation was also caused, in part, by the failure of two operating shift crews to reset the high vessel water level isolation in accordance with operating procedures following the scram on April 16, 1984. We are concerned with this demonstrated lack of attention to detail in plant operations. Further, we are concerned with the delay in recognition and in reporting the HPCI operability

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violation until April 25, 1984, when sufficient information existed to identify the degraded mode of operations as a result of HPCI valve operability testing conducted on April 20, 1984. In your response to this letter, you should address in particular the actions that will be taken to strengthen these weaknesses in control of plant operations.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790(a), a copy of this letter and the enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room unless you notify this office, by telephone, within ten days of the date of this letter and submit written application to withhold information contained therein within thirty days of the date of this letter. Such application must be consistent with the requirements of 2.790(b)(1). The telephone notification of your intent to request withholding, or any request for an extension of the 10-day period which you believe necessary, should be made to the Chief, Records Management Section, USNRC Region I, at (215) 337-5223.

The responses directed by this letter and the accompanying Notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, PL 96-511.

Your cooperation with us in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Richard W. Starostecki, Director
Division of Project and Resident
Programs

Enclosures:

- 1. Appendix A, Notice of Violation
- 2. NRC Region I Inspection Report No. 50-271/84-08

cc w/encls:

- Mr. J. B. Sinclair, Licensing Engineer
- Mr. W. F. Conway, President and Chief Executive Officer
- Mr. J. P. Pelletier, Plant Manager
- Mr. L. H. Heider, Vice President
- Public Document Room (PDR)
- Local Public Document Room (LPDR)
- Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
- NRC Resident Inspector
- State of New Hampshire
- State of Vermont
- bcc w/encls: Vermont Public Interest Research Group, Inc.
- Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)
- Senior Operations Officer (w/o encls)
- DPRP Section Chief
- DETP

OFFICE ▶	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
SURNAME ▶	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
DATE ▶	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....