



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

50-271

Docket file

October 12, 1995

Mr. Donald A. Reid, Vice President
Operations
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation
Ferry Road
Brattleboro, VT 05301

SUBJECT: FEEDWATER NOZZLE INSPECTION RELIEF REQUEST - VERMONT YANKEE
NUCLEAR POWER STATION (TAC NO. M92940)

Dear Mr. Reid:

By letter dated February 11, 1994, Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation (VYNPC) requested relief from the dye penetrant (PT) requirement and the ultrasonic examination (UT) schedule contained in NUREG-0619, as modified by Generic Letter 81-11. VYNPC proposed to perform an automated ultrasonic examination of the feedwater nozzles from the inside of the reactor vessel in lieu of the PT examination at intervals not to exceed every fourth refueling cycle. By letter dated November 8, 1994, VYNPC submitted a fracture mechanics evaluation and additional information on the inspection technique qualification program. In a letter dated February 6, 1995, the NRC staff concluded that VYNPC may use the proposed UT inspection technique in lieu of PT examination for the feedwater nozzles during the 1995 refueling outage. The staff also indicated in its February 6, 1995, letter that final approval of VYNPC's proposed inspection technique and interval was dependent upon the results of the final UT technique qualification, and that the staff would review the results from the completion of the qualification program when available and issue a final evaluation.

NRC Inspection Report No. 50-271/95-09 documented the results of the spring 1995 feedwater nozzle inspections. VYNPC found no recordable indications and no surface breaking cracks extending into the base material. The NRC inspector concluded that VYNPC conducted a thorough qualification process and a high quality inspection.

By letter dated July 14, 1995, VYNPC submitted the final qualification of the UT inspection technique for feedwater nozzles. This letter contained the final qualification report, dated June 20, 1995, from the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) Nondestructive Examination (NDE) Center to Yankee Atomic Electric Company. The EPRI NDE Center concluded that the ultrasonic procedures and equipment used by VYNPC successfully demonstrated the system's capabilities for flaw detection and sizing.

The staff has reviewed the final qualification report and concludes that the automated UT qualification is acceptable for use by VYNPC as requested for examination of the feedwater nozzles once every four refueling outages,

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because the capabilities of the inspection technique are within the assumptions of the fracture mechanics analysis. Feedwater nozzle inspections with this method, conducted at least once every four refueling cycles, meet the intent of NUREG-0619 and provide an acceptable level of quality and safety.

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact me at (301)415-1429.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Daniel H. Dorman, Project Manager
Project Directorate I-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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cc: See next page

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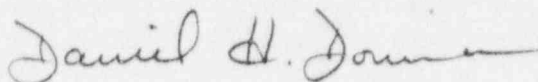
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Sincerely,



Daniel H. Dorman, Project Manager
Project Directorate I-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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