

OCT 11 1984

Docket No. 50-271
EA No. 84-

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: Notice of Violation (Inspection Report No. 50-271/84-20)

This refers to the special NRC inspection conducted by the NRC Senior Resident Inspector on July 17 - 31, 1984, at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station, Vernon, Vermont. The report of the inspection was forwarded to you on September 5, 1984. The inspection was conducted to review the circumstances associated with a degradation of secondary containment integrity on July 17, 1984. During this period, secondary containment integrity was required by a Technical Specification limiting condition for operation (LCO) because irradiated fuel was being moved in the spent fuel pool. On September 12, 1984, we held an enforcement conference with you and members of your staff during which the apparent violations, their causes, and your corrective actions were discussed.

Although no physical conditions existed which had a radiological impact on public safety when secondary containment was not maintained, the cause of this condition, namely, a failure of a plant worker to follow your established administrative controls, is of significant concern. The violations have been classified in the aggregate at Severity Level IV, in accordance with the NRC Enforcement Policy, as revised, 49 FR 8583 (March 8, 1984) taking into consideration the minimal safety significance. Nonetheless, these events demonstrate the need for emphasizing to the Vermont Yankee staff the importance of rigorously adhering to procedures to assure Technical Specification LCO's are not violated.

After our discussions during the enforcement conference, we agree that the sole cause for the secondary containment violation was the failure of a plant worker to follow your established administrative controls. We agree that there was no violation of your procedures regarding a safety evaluation of the proposed mechanical bypass request, and that the pre-implementation reviews performed for the request were appropriate.

However, we are concerned with the adequacy of your controls for the implementation of mechanical bypasses per procedure AP 0020. Specifically, we are concerned with: (1) those procedural provisions whereby the shift supervisor grants approval to implement the bypasses prior to reviewing the job for necessary tags; and, (2) the lack of cautions in the documentation for mechanical bypasses which would alert plant workers that a condition adverse to safety could be created

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during the implementation phase of the bypass. In your response to this letter, you should address what additional steps will be taken to resolve these concerns.

You are required to respond to the enclosed Notice and you should follow the instructions specified therein in preparing your response. In your response, you should describe the specific actions taken or planned to ensure personnel adhere to procedures. We will examine closely your corrective action and we emphasize that any similar violation in the future may result in additional enforcement action.

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.

The responses directed by this letter and the enclosed 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.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

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

Enclosure: Notice of Violation

cc w/encl:

- Mr. R. W. Capstick, Licensing Engineer
- Mr. W. F. Conway, President and Chief Executive Officer
- Mr. J. P. Pelletier, Plant Manager
- Mr. Donald Hunter, Vice President
- Mr. Cort Richardson, Vermont Public Interest Research Group, Inc.
Public Document Room (PDR)
Local Public Document Room (LPDR)
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
NRC Resident Inspector
- State of New Hampshire
- State of Vermont

Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation

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bcc w/encl:
Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)
Senior Operations Officer (w/o encls)
DPRP Section Chief
D. Holody, RI (2 cys, 1 showing concurrences)
J. Axelrad, IE
J. Lieberman, ELD

RI:ES *DM*
Holody/cjm
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RI:RA *ac*
Guzierrez

fes
SRI
Raymond
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fes
RI:DPRP
Tripp
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fes
RI:DPRP
Wenzinger
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ps
RI:DPRP
Starostecki
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RI:RAM *u*
Allan
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RI:RA
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RI:IE
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