

October 20, 1995

Mr. Donald A. Reid
Vice President, Operations
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation
RD 5, Box 169
Ferry Road
Brattleboro, Vermont 05301

SUBJECT: VERMONT YANKEE INSERVICE TEST PROGRAM INSPECTION 95-22

Dear Mr. Reid:

This letter transmits the results of an inspection performed between September 18-29, 1995, by Mr. D. Dempsey of this office, and Mr. J. Colaccino of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station. The inspection was focused on issues important to public health and safety, specifically your implementation of an inservice test (IST) program for pumps and valves. The preliminary inspection findings were discussed with Mr. J. Thayer and other members of the Vermont Yankee staff on September 29, 1995.

We observed good practices related to surveillance test procedures, scheduling and performance of deferred tests, and increased frequency testing of pumps. However, certain findings indicated less than effective program oversight and weak administrative controls. We found instances in which safety-related relief and power-operated valves were not included in or tested in accordance with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code. Also, we identified inadequate acceptance criteria for evaluating the condition of several pump minimum flow line check valves. Finally, we identified past problems affecting valve position indication and limiting stroke time (which were self-identified in 1994), where your corrective action program was not effective.

The deficiencies in IST scope (as required by 10 CFR 50.55a), the inadequate procedures for testing check valves, and the failure to implement effective corrective action for previously identified problems are violations of NRC requirements, and are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice). Therefore, you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. In your response, you should document the specific actions taken and any additional actions you plan to prevent recurrence. After reviewing your response to this Notice, including your proposed corrective actions and the results of future inspections, the NRC will determine whether further NRC enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with NRC regulatory requirements.

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure(s), and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR). To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be placed in the PDR without redaction. 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, Pub. L. No. 95-511.

Your cooperation in these matters is appreciated, and we would be pleased to discuss our conclusions with you.

Sincerely,

Eugene M. Kelly, Chief
Systems Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-271

Enclosures:

1. Appendix A, Notice of Violation
2. Inspection Report No. 50-271/95-22

cc w/encl:

R. Wanczyk, Plant Manager
J. Thayer, Vice President, Yankee Atomic Electric Company
J. Duffy, Licensing Engineer, Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation
J. Gilroy, Director, Vermont Public Interest Research Group, Inc.
D. Tefft, Administrator, Bureau of Radiological Health, State of New Hampshire
Chief, Safety Unit, Office of the Attorney General, Commonwealth of
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State of Vermont, SLO Designee
Commonwealth of Massachusetts, SLO Designee

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