

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION

DOCKET NO. 50-271

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from requirements of 10 CFR 50.71(e) to Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation, the licensee for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station, located in Vernon, Vermont.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action: The exemption would permit a six month extension in the required date for updating the Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR). The proposed exemption is in accordance with the licensee's request for exemption dated May 30, 1984.

The Need for the Proposed Action: Section 50.71(e) of 10 CFR Part 50 requires the licensees of nuclear power reactors to submit an updated Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR) within 24 months of July 22, 1980 (effective date of regulation) with subsequent revisions no less frequently than annually. The most recent update of the Vermont Yankee FSAR was submitted July 20, 1983, and the next FSAR revision is due no later than July 20, 1984.

By letter dated May 30, 1984, the licensee requested approval to defer the July 20, 1984 FSAR submittal until no later than November 30, 1984, with subsequent updates no less frequently than annually thereafter.

The basis for the licensee's request is to allow the licensee to concentrate engineering resources on efforts associated with the 1984 refueling outage. The outage commenced on June 16, 1984. Numerous significant and extensive engineering modifications, including those required by the NRC (e.g., recirculation and residual heat removal (RHR) system weld joint inspection and repair, fire protection modifications, and environmental qualification of safety-related electrical components in accordance with the schedular provisions of 10 CFR 50.49), are scheduled to be installed during this outage. This has necessitated the use of extensive engineering resources for the design and preparation of associated modification design packages. Deferring the engineering review related with the FSAR update submittal will allow the licensee to continue to concentrate on outage-related activities important to safety.

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action: The proposed exemption affects only the required date for updating the FSAR and does not affect the risk of facility accidents. Thus, post-accident radiological releases will not differ from those determined previously, and the proposed relief does not otherwise affect facility radiological effluents, or any significant occupational exposures. Likewise, the relief does not affect

plant non-radiological effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes there are no measurable radiological or nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed exemption, any alternatives either will have no environmental impact or will have a greater environmental impact. The principal alternative to the exemption would be to require literal compliance with Section 50.71(e) to 10 CFR Part 50. Such an action would not enhance the protection of the environment and would result in unnecessary diversion of utility engineering resources from safety related work.

Alternative Use of Resources: This action does not involve the use of resources not considered previously in connection with the Final Environmental Statement relating to this facility, Final Environmental Statement Related to Operation of Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station, Docket No. 50-271, (July 1972).

Agencies and Persons Consulted: The NRC staff did not consult other agencies or persons.

#### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

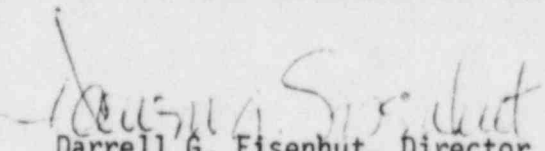
The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

Based upon the environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the request for exemption dated May 30, 1984, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., and at the Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main Street, Brattleboro, Vermont 05301.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 30th day of July, 1984,

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

  
Darrell G. Eisenhut, Director  
Division of Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation