

November 29, 1995

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

Subject: NOTICE OF VIOLATION AND VERMONT YANKEE INSPECTION 95-23

Dear Mr. Reid:

From October 3 to November 6, 1995, Messrs. W. Cook, P. Harris, and H. Eichenholz conducted safety inspections at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station, Vernon, Vermont. The preliminary results were discussed with Mr. R. Wanczyk at the conclusion of the inspection. The inspection focused on issues important to public health and safety, and consisted of performance observations of the conduct of operations and maintenance, and independent evaluation of safety system status and quality records.

Overall, plant staff performance was good this inspection period as exemplified by their response to intake structure trash rake debris build-up, conduct of EDG surveillance testing, implementation of the EDG air intake screen modification, and compensatory measures for Appendix R deficiencies. However, based upon inspector review and follow-up of a reactor core isolation cooling (RCIC) surveillance test, additional deficiencies were identified in the oversight and implementation of the Inservice Testing (IST) program. In particular, the conduct of stop-check valve testing in both the RCIC and high pressure coolant injection systems was found to be contrary to regulatory requirements and was the subject of the enclosed Notice of Violation.

Further, in view of this violation, the additional IST performance observations highlighted in the attached report, and the IST program concerns documented in inspection report 95-22, we request that the response to this Notice of Violation describe the broader programmatic actions that have been taken or planned to assure the adequacy and scope of valve testing and to improve the effectiveness of management oversight of the Vermont Yankee (VY) IST Program.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practices," a copy of this letter and the enclosed Notice will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room. You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice. 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, Public Law No. 96.511.

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Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Richard J. Conte, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 5
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 50-271

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. NRC Inspection Report 50-271/95-23

cc w/encl:

R. Wanczyk, Plant Manager
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
Massachusetts
R. Gad, Esquire
G. Bisbee, Esquire
R. Sedano, Vermont Department of Public Service
T. Rapone, Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety
State of New Hampshire, SLO Designee
State of Vermont, SLO Designee
Commonwealth of Massachusetts, SLO Designee

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