

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION
DOCKET NO. 50-271
VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF
NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering approval of a procedure for on site disposal of silt containing low levels of radioactivity at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (VYNPS), pursuant to 10 CFR 20.2002, as requested by the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation, (the licensee). VYNPS is located in Windham County, Vermont.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would authorize the on site relocation of silt containing low levels of radioactivity which was or will be removed from the cooling tower basins at VYNPS.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application dated August 30, 1995.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action will eliminate the need to hold the material for future disposal in a 10 CFR Part 61 licensed facility and will save space at licensed facilities for waste materials containing higher levels of activity. It will also save substantial cost.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and

concludes that the proposed action will minimize the risk of unexpected exposure. The licensee's proposal was evaluated against the staff's guidelines for on site disposal and found to be acceptable. The potential exposure to members of the general public from the radionuclides in the silt was determined to be less than 1 mrem/year. The potential exposure to an inadvertent intruder following licensee release of the disposal site was determined to be less than 5 mrem/year. The proposed action will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does involve features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded there is no significant environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station, dated July 1972.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on December 21, 1995, the staff consulted with the Vermont State official, Mr. William Sherman of the Vermont Department of Public Service, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official questioned the impact of the proposed action on decommissioning of VYNPS. At the time of decommissioning, the licensee will be required to demonstrate that the activity levels on the site are sufficiently low to permit releasing the site for general use.

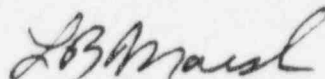
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated August 30, 1995, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 13th day of February 1996.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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