

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONVERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATIONVERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATIONDOCKET NO. 50-271NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ANDFINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirements of Appendix E to 10 CFR 50 to the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation (the licensee) for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station, located at the licensee's site in Windham County, Vermont.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The exemption relates to Section IV.F.2 of Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50 which requires that each licensee at each site shall annually exercise its emergency plan. By letter dated August 6, 1984, the licensee requested that an event that occurred on June 15, 1984 be allowed to substitute for the planned November 1984 on-site exercise. The event resulted in complete implementation of its emergency plan to the Alert level.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

Section 50.54(q) of 10 CFR Part 50 requires a licensee authorized to operate a nuclear power reactor to follow and maintain in effect emergency plans which meet the standards of 10 CFR 50.47(b) and the requirements of Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50. Section IV.F.2 of Appendix E requires that each licensee at each site shall annually exercise its emergency plan. The

event that occurred on June 15, 1984 resulted in complete implementation of the Vermont Yankee Emergency Plan to the Alert level. An additional exercise of the emergency plan beyond the annual frequency required by Section IV.F.2 of Appendix E would be a significant expenditure of resources beyond the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption only affects the conduct of the annual emergency preparedness exercise and does not affect the risk of facility accidents. Thus, post-accident radiological releases will not be greater than previously determined nor does the proposed exemption otherwise affect radiological plant effluents, nor any significant occupational exposures. Likewise, the exemption does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological or nonradiological impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Since we have concluded that there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed exemption, any alternatives will either have no environmental impact or greater environmental impact. The principal alternative to the exemption would be to require literal compliance with Section IV.F of Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50. Such an action would not enhance the protection of the environment and would result in unnecessary expenditure of resources to participate in the exercise.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in connection with the Final Environmental Statement related

to this facility (Final Environmental Statement - Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station, July 1972).

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request dated August 6, 1984. The NRC staff did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

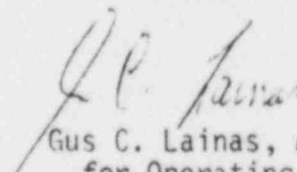
The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed license amendment.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the Commission concludes 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 August 6, 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 31st day of October, 1984.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


Gus C. Lainas, Assistant Director
for Operating Reactors
Division of Licensing