Docket No. 50-271

Mr. Warren P. Murphy Senior Vice President, Operations Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation RD 5, Box 169 Ferry Road Brattleboro, Vermont 05301

Dear Mr. Murphy:

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SUBJECT: TEMPORARY WAIVER OF COMPLIANCE RELATED TO VERMONT YANKEE EMERGENCY DIESEL GENERATORS

This letter responds to your telephone notification on June 29, 1992, and your letter dated that same day, requesting a Temporary Waiver of Compliance from Vermont Yankee Technical Specification 3.5.H.1. The Waiver was requested to permit reactor operation for an additional 48 hours with the "A" emergency diesel generator inoperable. A copy of your request is enclosed for reference.

After careful consideration of your request, the NRC has concluded that reactor operation beyond the 7-day Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO) of Technical Specification 3.5.H.1 for a period of 48 hours has a minimal affect on reactor safety based, in part, on the availability of the dedicated Vernon Hydro Station tie-line. This waiver is also based on the fact that you have replaced most or all of the engine's cylinder liners, adaptors and associated gaskets with new parts, using a revised torquing technique, and are in the process of a more comprehensive 34-hour run-in test of the engine and a 12-hour cooldown period followed by operability testing during the duration of this waiver. Also, we understand that you have commissioned an independent task force to investigate the reliability concerns about the "A" diesel engine. Finally, it is our understanding that, if related jacket cooling problems develop from subsequent testing after July 2, 1992, an orderly shutdown of the plant would be initiated.

A Temporary Waiver of Compliance was granted from Technical Specification 3.5.H.1, as discussed by Mr. J. Linville, Chief, Projects Branch No. 3, and by Mr. D. Reid of your staff on June 28, 1992. The Waiver was granted for 48 hours beyond the LCO, allowing for testing of the "A" emergency diesel generator, and expires at 4:57 a.m. on July 2, 1992.

Sincerely,

GRIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Charles W. Hehl, Director Division of Reactor Projects

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Mr. Warren P. Murphy

Enclosure: As Stated

cc w/encl:

J. Weigand, President and Chief Executive Officer

J. Pelletier, Vice President, Engineering

D. Reid, Plant Manager

J. DeVincentis, Vice President, Yankee Atomic Electric Company

L. Tremblay, Senior Licensing Engineer. Yankee Atomic Electric Company

J. Gilroy, Director, Vermont Public Interest Research Group, Inc.

G. Iverson, New Hampshire Office of Emergency Management

Chief, Safety Unit, Office of the Attorney General, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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R. McCandless, Vermont Division of Occupational and Radiological Health

R. Gad, Esquire

G. Bisbee, Esquire

Chairman, Board of Selectmen, Town of Vernon

R. Sedano, Vermont Department of Public Service

T. Rapone, Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety

Public Document Room (PDR)

Local Public Document Room (LPDR)

Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)

NRC Resident Inspector

State of New Hampshire, SLO Designee

State of Vermont, SLO Designee

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, SLO Designee

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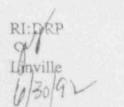
Mr. Warren P. Murphy

bec w/encl: Region I Docket Room (with concurrences and 1FS Forms) J. Linville, DRP E. Kelly, DRP H. Eichenholz, SRI - Vermont Yankee (w/concurrences and IFS Forms) N. Perry, SRI - Yankee Rowe R. Lobel, OLDO P. Sears, NRR W. Butler, NRR T. Martin, RA W. Kane, DRA C. Hehl, DRP

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J. Wiggins, DRP





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