

JUL 01 1992

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:

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,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Charles W. Hehl, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

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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
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

JUL 01 1992

Mr. Warren P. Murphy

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bcc w/encl:

Region I Docket Room (with concurrences and IFS Forms)

J. Linville, DRP

E. Kelly, DRP

H. Eichenholz, SRI - Vermont Yankee (w/concurrences and IFS Forms)

N. Perry, SRI - Yankee Rowe

R. Lobel, O&DO

P. Sears, NRR

W. Butler, NRR

T. Martin, RA

W. Kane, DRA

C. Hehl, DRP

J. Wiggins, DRP

RI:DRP
[Signature]
Kelly/mco
6/30/92

RI:DRP
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Linville
6/30/92

HQ: NRR
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Calvo
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Hehl
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