

April 25, 1996

Mr. Donald A. Reid  
Vice President, Operations  
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation  
Ferry Road  
Brattleboro, VT 05301

SUBJECT: STATION BATTERY BLOCK WALLS - VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER  
STATION (TAC NO. M94951)

Dear Mr. Reid:

By letters dated March 15, 1996, and March 26, 1996, Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation (the licensee) submitted information regarding the operability of the station battery block walls at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (VYNPS). The analysis provided by the licensee took credit for arching behavior in unreinforced, hollow block, masonry walls and concluded that the walls in question had sufficient capacity to withstand loads induced by the safe shutdown earthquake. The staff has reviewed the licensee's calculations and concludes that the method used by the licensee cannot appropriately be applied to the walls in question for the reasons set forth in the attached safety evaluation (SE). However, by letter dated April 12, 1996, the licensee committed to implement modifications to the battery racks no later than May 3, 1996. The licensee asserted that following the implementation of these modifications, the battery racks and the masonry walls would be in full conformance with their respective design basis requirements. The staff has evaluated the licensee's commitment against the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, Criterion XVI, "Corrective Actions," and concludes that the licensee's plan for corrective action is acceptable. This completes the staff's actions under TAC No. M94951.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at (301) 415-1429.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Daniel H. Dorman, Project Manager  
Project Directorate I-1  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-271

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc: See next page

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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at (301) 415-1429.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel H. Dorman".

Daniel H. Dorman, Project Manager  
Project Directorate I-1  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-271

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc: See next page

D. Reid  
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power  
Corporation  
cc:

Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station

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