

April 18, 1996

Mr. Donald A. Reid
Vice President, Operations
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation
RD 5, Box 169
Ferry Road
Brattleboro, Vermont 05301

SUBJECT: REPLY TO VERMONT YANKEE LETTERS DATED FEBRUARY 26, 1996 AND
MARCH 4, 1996 AND REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Dear Mr. Reid:

Thank you for your prompt response to our letter, dated February 9, 1996, requesting the results of your staff's follow-up of alleged concerns involving the augmented off-gas (AOG) system. The information provided in your February 26 and March 4, 1996 response letters, which contained information developed by your investigation team, was helpful to the NRC staff in addressing these issues. The acceptability of your response is pending further NRC staff review.

At your request, Attachment 3 to your February 26, 1996 letter and Attachment A to your March 4, 1996 letter have been withheld from public disclosure in accordance with 10 CFR 2.790(a)(6), because their release could potentially result in an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

For future reference, requested information potentially containing 10 CFR 2.790 information should be sufficiently detailed (individuals' titles and names) such that the NRC staff may directly contact those individuals for follow-up, if warranted, without further verbal or written requests for such information. In this regard and as a result of our review of your February 26th letter, the March 4th letter was warranted.

Further questions and concerns on the AOG systems were raised in letters dated March 27, and April 1, 1996 to Messrs. Cooper and Vito of this office from the New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution, Inc. In a telephone conversation on April 5, 1996, between you and Mr. R. Conte of this office, we understand you have a copy of these letters that were either available in the public domain or were given directly to you at a meeting on March 28, 1996 between you and the Vermont State Nuclear Advisory Panel (VSNAP). We also understand that your investigation team that was assigned to do the previous review of alleged concerns involving the AOG system has been continued to investigate the questions and concerns raised by the March 27 and April 1 letters. We note in the letter dated April 1, 1996, the credibility of your team leader was questioned relative to his understanding of the bypass

9605060031 960418
PDR ADOCK 05000271
P PDR

public per memo to Jean Lee from Cynthia O'Daniell

1E:01

capability of the AOG system.

We expect that you will take the necessary actions as part of your current investigation to reasonably prove or disprove these concerns and make records of your completed action available for NRC inspection. We request that the results of your efforts to conduct an investigation on the questions and concerns raised by the March 27 and April 1 letters be provided to NRC, Region I ATTN: R.W. Cooper within 60 days of the date of this letter. Your response should additionally address the following:

- The bases for your confidence in the team leader's proficiency and independence to lead the assigned additional review.
- An explanation as to why the initial answer given by the team leader at the VSNAP stated that there was no AOG bypass.
- An explanation as to why the diagram of the AOG system did not reflect the bypass capability?
- Identify any periods of time since the last refueling outage when the bypass valves were open and why. If the bypass valves were open, confirm that any radiological releases were in compliance with the technical specifications.

In addition to reviewing your response to the questions specified above, the NRC review of your response will also include whether: (a) the evaluation was of sufficient depth and scope; (b) appropriate root causes and generic implications were considered if the concerns in the March 27 and April 1 letters were substantiated; and (c) the corrective actions, if necessary, were sufficient.

We request that your response only be sent to the author of this letter with no other copies to the NRC. Please do not submit your response to the Document Control Desk. If your response contains personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information, such information shall be contained in a separate attachment, appropriately marked, so that it will not be subject to public disclosure. The affidavit required by 10 CFR 2.790(b) must accompany your response if proprietary information is included.

The response requested by this letter and the accompanying enclosure are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, Pub. L. 96-511.

Mr. Donald A. Reid

3

If you have any questions concerning this request, please contact Mr. R. Conte at (610) 337-5183. Your cooperation with us is appreciated. We will gladly discuss any questions you may have concerning this information.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Richard W. Cooper, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 50-271

cc:

R. Wanczyk, Plant Manager, Vermont Yankee

M. Daley, New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution, Inc.

R. Sedano, Vermont Department of Public Service

Mr. Donald A. Reid

4

Distribution w/encl:

- R. Conte, DRP
- C. O'Daniell, DRP
- H. Eichenholz, DRP
- D. Vito, OA

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\BRANCH5\ALLEGRES.LTR

To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the box: 'C' = Copy without attachment/enclosure 'E' = Copy with attachment/enclosure 'N' = No copy

OFFICE	RI/DRP	RI/ORA	RI/DRP	RI/ORA	E
NAME	RConte <i>AS for</i>	KSmith <i>KS</i>	RCooper <i>RC</i>	DVTD <i>DOJ</i>	
DATE	04/09/96	04/15/96 <i>2/19/96</i>	04/18/96	04/16/96	04/ /96

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

only