



50-271

UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 23, 1998

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

SUBJECT: TIMELINESS OF LICENSING SUBMITTALS - VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR  
POWER STATION

Dear Mr. Reid:

Recently, the NRC staff has received several licensing submittals from Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation that require expedited approval by the staff to meet your schedule to safely operate the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station. Examples of these submittals are as follows:

- (1) a request for an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 70.24, "Criticality Accident Monitoring," dated December 16, 1997, and supplemented January 13, 1998. Although no due date was specified in your letter, it was the staff's understanding that the new fuel was scheduled to be received at the site about January 20, 1998, and the exemption was issued on that date,
- (2) a proposed technical specification (TS) change for the safety limit - minimum critical power ratio for cycle 20 dated December 11, 1997, requesting approval by March 1, 1998, and
- (3) a proposed TS change dated November 20, 1997, for the main station battery requesting approval by April 1, 1998.

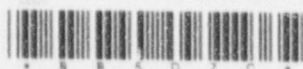
As you know, the staff has limited resources available to review proposed licensing actions submitted by all licensees. The staff can be most responsive to licensees' requests as a whole only if adequate time is provided between the submittal of licensing actions and the time the actions are actually needed. When expedited reviews are needed, our ability to be responsive to other licensees' requests is greatly diminished.

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As noted above, a number of your recent submittals require expedited reviews to meet your schedules. We believe the timeliness of your licensing submittals can be improved. Therefore, we believe it is necessary to call your attention to this matter in order to ensure our continued ability to be responsive not only to your licensing actions but also to those of other licensees. If you would like to discuss this matter further or need additional information, please do not hesitate to call me at (301) 415-1496.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Kahtan N. Jabbour, Senior Project Manager  
Project Directorate I-3  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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