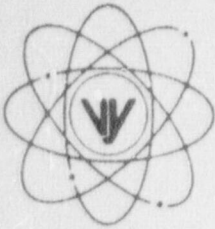


VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION



RD 5, Box 169, Ferry Road, Brattleboro, VT 05301

REPLY TO
ENGINEERING OFFICE
580 MAIN STREET
BOLTON, MA 01740
(508) 779-6711

April 27, 1989
BVY 89-41

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Attention: Document Control Desk

References: a) Construction Permit No. CPPR-36 (Docket No. 50-271)
b) License No. DPR-28 (Docket No. 50-271)
c) U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, "Final Environmental Statement Related to Operation of Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station," Docket No. 50-271, July 1972

Dear Sir:

Subject: Proposed Amendment to Vermont Yankee Operating License to Extend the License Expiration to 40 Years from Date of Issuance

Pursuant to the provisions of 10CFR, Part 50, Section 50.90, Vermont Yankee Power Corporation hereby proposes the following change to the facility operating license.

PROPOSED CHANGE

Replace page 7a of Facility Operating License No. DPR-28 with the enclosed revised page 7a. This proposed change will amend the operating license expiration date from December 11, 2007 to February 28, 2013. This period of five years and three months is the "amendment term" requested in this application and referred to in Attachments 1 and 2.

REASON FOR CHANGE

The current expiration date for the Vermont Yankee operating license is 40 years from the date of issuance of the construction permit (December 11, 1967), Reference a). Because the full-term operating license was not issued until February 28, 1973 [Reference b)], the effective period of the license is only 34 years and 9 months. Current NRC policy, as illustrated by the terms of the operating licenses issued for LaSalle 1 and 2, and St. Lucie 2, is to issue operating licenses for a 40-year period, dated from the date of issuance. The requested change in expiration date of Vermont Yankee's operating license would provide the 40-year period of operation for which the plant was designed.

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The Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station is one of the most reliable electrical generation plants in the country, with a cumulative capacity factor of over 70 percent through 16 years of operation. Vermont Yankee is also one of the safest nuclear power plants in the country, as evidenced by the history of consistently favorable NRC SALP ratings. Since Vermont Yankee has proved to also be a safe, reliable, and economical plant, its continued operation through an additional five years and three months will provide significant benefits to the New England region and local area.

BASIS FOR CHANGE

Section 103.c of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 authorizes the issuance of facility operating licenses for a period of up to 40 years. The current license term for the Vermont Yankee facility began with the date of issuance of the construction permit, December 11, 1967, and ends on December 11, 2007. Accounting for the five years and three months required for plant construction, this represents an effective operating license term of only 34 years and 9 months.

Current NRC policy is to issue operating licenses for a 40-year period, commencing with the date of issuance of the operating license. For Vermont Yankee, this date was February 28, 1972. Accordingly, it is proposed that the Vermont Yankee operating license be amended to change the expiration date to February 28, 2013, consistent with current NRC policy and the originally engineered design life of the plant.

SAFETY CONSIDERATION

This proposed change does not present an unreviewed safety question as defined in 10CFR50.59.

This proposed change does not increase the probability of occurrence or the consequence of an accident or malfunction of equipment previously evaluated in the safety analysis. The attachments to this letter provide documentation stating that the life for major equipment is 40 years and that ongoing maintenance and inspection programs will ensure that equipment important to safety functions properly for 40 years. Also provided is information which projects population growth in the area surrounding Vermont Yankee to be lower through the year 2012 than the growth originally projected through the year 2000 when Vermont Yankee was licensed; therefore, the potential consequences of an accident or malfunction of a different type than any previously evaluated will not be increased as a result of this proposed change. Analyses performed to evaluate the continued performance of the reactor vessel, together with the equipment maintenance and inspection programs mentioned above, provide assurance that no new accidents or malfunctions need be considered. A review of the basis of the Technical Specifications has been completed, resulting in the determination that this proposed change will not reduce the margin of safety as defined in the basis for any Technical Specification.

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The safety and environmental assessments are provided in Attachment 2, which also contains an assessment of the benefits that will be derived from this amendment. In the safety and environmental assessments we have concluded that there are no significant radiological or non-radiological impacts associated with the proposed action. Issuance by the NRC of the proposed license amendment will have no significant impact on the public or environment.

Section I of Attachment 2 provides a summary of the conclusions reached in the safety and environmental assessments conducted and serves as a guide for directing the reader to the pertinent sections of Attachment 2.

This proposed change has been reviewed by the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Safety Audit and Review Committee.

SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS CONSIDERATION

As required by 10CFR50.91, we have evaluated this license amendment request to determine whether the proposed change constitutes a significant hazards consideration using the standards in 10CFR50.92 (Attachment 1). We have concluded that, based on the results of the attached safety and environmental assessments, the license amendment request does not involve any changes in plant design, operations, or the Technical Specifications and only contemplates an administrative change to the expiration date of the current license. Therefore, this amendment does not involve a significant hazards consideration.

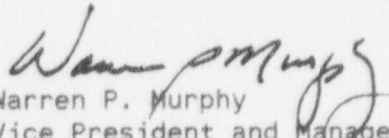
SCHEDULE OF CHANGE

This change to the Vermont Yankee Technical Specifications will be implemented as soon as practicable following receipt of your approval.

We trust that the information provided above adequately supports our request; however, should you have any questions in this matter, please contact us.

Very truly yours,

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION


Warren P. Murphy
Vice President and Manager of Operations

/dm

cc: USNRC Regional Administrator, Region I
USNRC Resident Inspector
Vermont Department of Public Service

