

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION

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May 12, 1998
BVY 98-71

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

References:

- (a) Letter, VYNPC to USNRC, BVY 97-57, dated April 29, 1997
- (b) Letter, USNRC to VYNPC, NVY 97-62, dated May 1, 1997
- (c) Letter, VYNPC to USNRC, BVY 97-67, dated May 29, 1997
- (d) Letter, USNRC to VYNPC, NVY 94-85, Supplemental Safety Evaluation of Station Blackout Analysis, dated June 1, 1994
- (e) Letter, VYNPC to USNRC, BVY 97-130, TS Proposed Change No. 194, Revision of Offsite Power Requirements, dated October 10, 1997
- (f) Letter, USNRC to VYNPC, NVY 98-39, Issuance of Amendment No. 155 to Facility Operating License No. DPR-28, dated March 24, 1998

Subject: Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station
License No. DPR-28 (Docket No. 50-271)
Compliance With 10CFR50.63, Station Blackout

In Reference (a), Vermont Yankee concluded that it was crediting the Vernon Tie Line as a source of offsite power to meet the offsite power system licensing basis for the station. As a result, the Vernon Tie could not also be credited as a Station Blackout source to meet the requirements of 10CFR50.63. Reference (a) provided the NRC a copy of a Basis for Maintaining Operation (BMO), which addressed non-compliance with the Station Blackout Rule and indicated that we would restore full compliance prior to startup from the 1998 refueling outage.

In Reference (c) Vermont Yankee provided its plans to implement modifications to the existing backfeed through the main generator step-up transformer to make the backfeed an acceptable delayed access source of offsite power. With this modification now installed, the Vernon Tie, which was previously approved as an acceptable Station Blackout Alternate AC source by Reference (f), is no longer credited as a delayed access offsite power source and becomes available to meet the requirements of 10CFR50.63.

In Reference (e), Vermont Yankee submitted proposed Technical Specification changes which clarify offsite power system requirements and remove credit for the Vernon Tie as a delayed access offsite power source. Reference (f) issued an amendment to the Vermont Yankee Technical Specifications approving these changes.

This letter is written to inform the NRC that Vermont Yankee has completed installation of a generator no-load disconnect switch which permits the backfeed to be an acceptable delayed access source of offsite power. The Vernon Tie is now designated as the Station Blackout Alternate AC source and as a 10CFR50, Appendix R Alternative Shutdown AC Power Source. Vermont Yankee concludes that we are in full compliance with the requirements of 10CFR50.63 as previously approved in Reference (d).

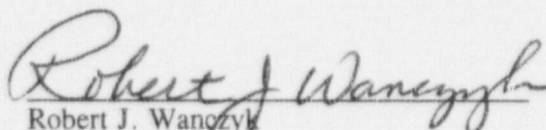
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Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact us.

Sincerely,

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION


Robert J. Wanozyk
Director of Safety and Regulatory Affairs

cc: USNRC Region 1 Administrator
USNRC Project Manager - VYNPS
USNRC Resident Inspector - VYNPS
Vermont Department of Public Service