

June 4, 1998

Mr. Gregory A. Maret
Director of Operations
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation
RD 5, Box 169
Ferry Road
Brattleboro, Vermont 05301

SUBJECT: NRC INTEGRATED INSPECTION REPORT 50-271/98-04 AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Maret:

On May 2, 1998, the NRC completed an inspection at your Vermont Yankee reactor facility. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

During the majority of the seven week period covered by this inspection period, you have been conducting a refueling outage. Overall plant activities were conducted safely, including the transition from power operations through establishing the shutdown conditions required to support the outage. During this period two violations of NRC requirements that were identified. The first violation involved a short circuit of one of the main station batteries during a test evolution that was, in part, a result of inadequate oversight of that activity by station personnel. In addition, we noted that you experienced problems with control of contractors during the torus project during the outage. The second violation involved a vital area access control problem identified by the NRC inspectors during a tour of the facility. Each of these problems was either self-revealing or identified by NRC inspectors during tours of your station. Although you took aggressive corrective action for each of these events, we are concerned about the oversight of station activities by Vermont Yankee personnel during the outage. Your continued management attention is warranted.

The violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation, and the circumstances surrounding the violations are described in detail in the enclosed report. Please note that you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

The response directed by this letter and the enclosed Notice 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. No. 96-511. In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practices," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

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Mr. Gregory A. Maret

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practices," a copy of this letter and the enclosed Notice will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Curtis J. Cowgill, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 5
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 50-271

Enclosure:

1. Notice of Violation
2. NRC Inspection Report 50-271/98-04

cc w/encl:

R. McCullough, Operating Experience Coordinator - Vermont Yankee
G. Sen, Licensing Manager, Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation
D. Rapaport, Director, Vermont Public Interest Research Group, Inc.
D. Tefft, Administrator, Bureau of Radiological Health, State of New Hampshire
Chief, Safety Unit, Office of the Attorney General, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
D. Lewis, Esquire
G. Bisbee, Esquire
J. Block, Esquire
T. Rapone, Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety
D. Katz, Citizens Awareness Network (CAN)
M. Daley, New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution, Inc. (NECNP)
State of New Hampshire, SLO Designee
State of Vermont, SLO Designee
Commonwealth of Massachusetts, SLO Designee

Mr. Gregory A. Maret

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