

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS**  
**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
**WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555**

March 12, 1976

Honorable William A. Anders  
Chairman  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

**SUBJECT: REPORT ON CONTAINMENT SYSTEM MODIFICATIONS, VERMONT YANKEE  
NUCLEAR POWER STATION**

Dear Mr. Anders:

During its 191st meeting, March 4-6, 1976, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards met with representatives of the Vermont Yankee Electric Company, the Mark-I Owners Group, the General Electric Company, the Bechtel Power Corporation, Teledyne Materials Research Corporation, the Nutech Corporation, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Staff to discuss the modifications in the containment system for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station. A Subcommittee of the ACRS and its consultants also considered these modifications at a meeting on March 3, 1976. During its review, the Committee had the benefit of the documents listed. The Committee also heard oral comments by Mr. David M. Scott, Department of Health, State of Vermont.

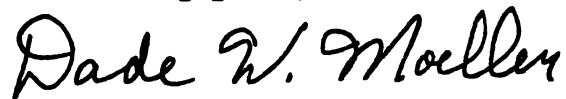
The modifications consist first, of an increase in the drywell pressure of 1.25 psi and a reduction in the wetwell, or torus, pressure of 0.45 psi, and second, of the installation of a tie-down system for the torus. The Committee was informed that the tie-down system will be completed in the near future, and also that the water volume in the torus, the torus pressure, and the drywell pressure will be closely monitored.

The Committee concurs in the view that these modifications represent an improvement in the safety margin for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station containment performance capability. The modifications were based on the Short-Term Program which consisted of small scale tests and analytical studies. The Mark-I Owners Group also informed the Committee of its Long-Term Program to perform large scale tests which will also include three-dimensional effects. The Committee believes that the Long-Term Program will lead to significant findings and recommends that this program proceed in an expeditious manner. The Committee wishes to be kept informed.

March 12, 1976

The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards wishes to point out that there are several generic items of importance for boiling water reactors, and the resolution of these items will, of necessity, be relevant to the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Dade W. Moeller". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dade W. Moeller  
Chairman

REFERENCES:

1. Mark I Containment Evaluation Short-Term Program - Final Report; Volumes I-V, dated September 1975.
2. Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation Letter, dated February 6, 1976, transmitting an evaluation of torus behavior.
3. Order for Modification of License for Vermont Yankee Power Corporation, dated February 13, 1976.
4. Safety Evaluation Report, dated February 13, 1976.
5. Testimony of Mr. David M. Scott before the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, March 5, 1976.