

November 22, 1999

Mr. Samuel L. Newton  
Vice President, Operations  
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation  
185 Old Ferry Road  
Brattleboro, Vermont 05301

SUBJECT: NRC INTEGRATED INSPECTION REPORT 50-271/99-08

Dear Mr. Newton:

On October 24, 1999, the NRC completed an inspection at your Vermont Yankee (VY) facility. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

During the six weeks covered by this inspection period, the conduct of activities at Vermont Yankee was characterized by safe plant operations. We noted that several problems occurred as the result of pre-outage maintenance. However, VY management responded promptly, heightening the sensitivity of plant personnel, and no safety significant consequences occurred. A routine inspection of the security program and an initiative inspection of the radiological controls program had a number of positive findings and found no violations of NRC requirements.

However, based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that one Severity Level IV violation of NRC requirements occurred. This violation is being treated as a Non-Cited Violation (NCV), consistent with Appendix C of the Enforcement Policy. The NCV involved the failure of operators to restore a tripped Rod Block Monitor channel to its normal mode of operation in accordance with plant procedures. The NCV is further described in the subject inspection report. If you contest the violation or severity level of the NCV, you should provide a response within 30 days of the date of this inspection report, with the basis for your denial, to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Document Control Desk, Washington DC 20555-0001, with copies to the Regional Administrator, Region I; and the Director, Office of Enforcement, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; and the NRC Resident Inspector at the Vermont Yankee facility.

PDR ADOCK

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Samuel L. Newton

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

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

Clifford J. Anderson, Chief  
Projects Branch 5  
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No.: 50-271  
License No.: DPR-28

Enclosure: NRC Inspection Report 50-271/99-08

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  
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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

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