



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION I  
475 ALLENDALE ROAD  
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406-1415

March 2, 2006

Mr. Jay K. Thayer  
Site Vice President  
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.  
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station  
P.O. Box 0500  
185 Old Ferry Road  
Brattleboro, VT 05302-0500

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER  
STATION (REPORT 50000271/2006001)

Dear Mr. Thayer:

On February 6, 2006, the NRC staff completed its performance review of Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2005. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility.

This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include physical protection information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Official Use Only - Security-Related Information" will include the physical protection review and resultant inspection plan.

Overall Vermont Yankee operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives. Plant performance for the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Therefore, we plan to conduct reactor oversight process (ROP) baseline inspections at your facility.

While plant performance for the most recent quarter is within the Licensee Response column of the Action Matrix, there was a safety significant inspection finding affecting the first three quarters of the assessment cycle. This was due to a low to moderate safety significant (White) inspection finding in the Emergency Preparedness cornerstone for not providing tone alert radios to a portion of the populace that was within the VY emergency planning zone. A supplemental inspection, conducted in June 2005, determined that the root causes for the performance deficiencies were understood and the completed and planned corrective actions were appropriate.

Additionally, on June 22, 2005, the staff issued a severity level III Notice of Violation, in accordance with the NRC's Enforcement Policy, for the 2004 finding related to two irradiated fuel rod pieces that were not in their proper location in the spent fuel pool as detailed in

inventory records. Information regarding the reason for the violation, corrective actions, and when Vermont Yankee achieved full compliance with the regulatory requirements for this issue are discussed in Notice of Violation EA-04-174 and Special Inspection Report 05000271/2004007, dated December 2, 2004.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to physical protection, scheduled through September 30, 2007. The inspection plan is provided to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues well in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the mid-cycle review.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change this inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact Mr. Clifford J. Anderson of my staff at 610-337-5227 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Brian E. Holian  
Director, Division of Reactor Projects, Region I

Docket Nos. 50-271  
License Nos. DPR-28

Enclosure: Vermont Yankee Inspection/ Activity Plan

cc.

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J. Thayer

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**SISP Review Complete: TEW (Reviewer's Initials)**

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OFFICE	RI/DRP	RI/DRP	RI/DRP
NAME	TWalker/TEW	CAnderson/CJA	BHolian/BEH
DATE	02/28/06	02/28/06	03/02/06

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**Vermont Yankee**  
**Inspection / Activity Plan**  
**03/01/2006 - 09/30/2007**

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	<b>71004</b>	<b>- POWER UPRATE</b>	<b>4</b>			
1	IP 71004	Power Uprate		02/25/2006	04/25/2006	Other Routine
	<b>REMP</b>	<b>- PUB RAD SAFETY - REMP</b>	<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program (REMP) And Radioactive Material Control F		03/06/2006	03/10/2006	Other Routine
1	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program (REMP) And Radioactive Material Control F		03/20/2006	03/24/2006	Other Routine
	<b>711111B</b>	<b>- L.O. REQUAL. PROG. + P/F REVIEW</b>	<b>3</b>			
1	IP 711111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program		07/17/2006	07/21/2006	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 711111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program		07/24/2006	07/28/2006	Baseline Inspections
	<b>711121</b>	<b>- CDBI (COMPONENT DESIGN BASES INSPECTION)</b>	<b>6</b>			
1	IP 711121	Component Design Bases Inspection		07/10/2006	07/14/2006	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 711121	Component Design Bases Inspection		07/24/2006	07/28/2006	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 711121	Component Design Bases Inspection		08/07/2006	08/11/2006	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 711121	Component Design Bases Inspection		08/14/2006	08/18/2006	Baseline Inspections
	<b>71114</b>	<b>- EP PRGM INSP &amp; PI VERIFICATION</b>	<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing		08/07/2006	08/11/2006	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111403	Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing		08/07/2006	08/11/2006	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		08/07/2006	08/11/2006	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies		08/07/2006	08/11/2006	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		08/07/2006	08/11/2006	Baseline Inspections
	<b>71121</b>	<b>- OCC RAD SAFETY</b>	<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		10/02/2006	10/06/2006	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		10/02/2006	10/06/2006	Baseline Inspections
	<b>71121</b>	<b>- OCC RAD SAFETY</b>	<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		10/30/2006	11/03/2006	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		10/30/2006	11/03/2006	Baseline Inspections
	<b>711107B</b>	<b>- HEAT SINK</b>	<b>2</b>			
1	IP 711107B	Heat Sink Performance		11/27/2006	12/01/2006	Baseline Inspections
	<b>7112201</b>	<b>- PUB RAD SAFETY - RETS</b>	<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		11/27/2006	12/01/2006	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		11/27/2006	12/01/2006	Baseline Inspections
	<b>71121</b>	<b>- OCC RAD SAFETY</b>	<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		01/08/2007	01/12/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		01/08/2007	01/12/2007	Baseline Inspections
	<b>TRI FIRE</b>	<b>- TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION INSPECTION</b>	<b>3</b>			
1	IP 711105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]		03/12/2007	03/16/2007	Baseline Inspections

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.  
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

**Vermont Yankee**  
**Inspection / Activity Plan**  
**03/01/2006 - 09/30/2007**

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	<b>TRI FIRE</b>	<b>- TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION INSPECTION</b>	<b>3</b>			
1	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]		03/26/2007	03/30/2007	Baseline Inspections
	<b>7112103</b>	<b>- OCC RAD SAFETY - INSTRUMENTS</b>	<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment		03/12/2007	03/16/2007	Baseline Inspections
	<b>5/7+EXM</b>	<b>- INITIAL LICENSED OPERATOR EXAMS</b>	<b>3</b>			
1	U01667	FY07-VERMONT YANKEE INITIAL OPERATOR EXAM		04/09/2007	04/13/2007	Not Applicable
1	U01667	FY07-VERMONT YANKEE INITIAL OPERATOR EXAM		05/07/2007	05/18/2007	Not Applicable
	<b>7111108G</b>	<b>- INSERVICE INSPECTION</b>	<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7111108G	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR		05/21/2007	05/24/2007	Baseline Inspections
	<b>71121</b>	<b>- OCC RAD SAFETY</b>	<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		05/21/2007	05/25/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		05/21/2007	05/25/2007	Baseline Inspections
	<b>7112203</b>	<b>- PUB RAD SAFETY - REMP</b>	<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program (REMP) And Radioactive Material Control F		07/30/2007	08/03/2007	Baseline Inspections
	<b>7111117B</b>	<b>- MODS AND 50.59</b>	<b>3</b>			
1	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		08/06/2007	08/10/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111117B	Permanent Plant Modifications		08/06/2007	08/10/2007	Baseline Inspections
	<b>71121</b>	<b>- OCC RAD SAFETY</b>	<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		08/20/2007	08/24/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		08/20/2007	08/24/2007	Baseline Inspections
	<b>71152B</b>	<b>- PI&amp;R</b>	<b>4</b>			
1	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		09/10/2007	09/14/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		09/24/2007	09/28/2007	Baseline Inspections