



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

March 5, 2012

Mr. Chris Wamser
Site Vice President
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station
320 Governor Hunt Road
Vernon, VT 05354

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR
POWER STATION (REPORT 05000271/2011001)**

Dear Mr. Wamser:

On February 14, 2012, the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff completed its end-of-cycle performance review of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (Vermont Yankee). The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility. This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter will include the NRC's assessment of your performance in the Security Cornerstone and its security-related inspection plan.

The NRC determined that overall, Vermont Yankee operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and met all cornerstone objectives. The NRC determined the performance at Vermont Yankee during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because all inspection findings had very low (i.e., green) safety significance, and all PIs indicated that your performance was within the nominal, expected range (i.e., green). Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at Vermont Yankee.

Last year, given the uncertainty regarding plant operations beyond March 2012 due to ongoing reviews and legal proceedings, the NRC staff conducted performance reviews for Vermont Yankee at the end of the first and third calendar year quarters of 2011. The purpose of these interim performance reviews was to perform an overall review and assessment of Vermont Yankee performance during the previous four calendar year quarters. Accordingly, the NRC conducted quarterly performance reviews of Vermont Yankee in May and November and determined that there were no issues associated with the plant's safety performance that warranted additional attention by the NRC. As a result, the NRC concluded that ROP baseline inspections would continue at your facility. These reviews were conducted using guidance contained in NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 0305, "Operating Reactor Assessment Program."

Through this quarterly assessment process, the NRC has not observed any change in focus or commitment by Entergy related to assuring safe operations of Vermont Yankee that would indicate additional NRC oversight or assessment in 2012 is currently needed. However, the NRC will continue to monitor the legal proceedings and ongoing reviews associated with

Vermont Yankee and will reinstitute a similar assessment process if such an approach is warranted. The NRC will return to its normal oversight with mid- and end-of-cycle performance reviews for calendar year 2012.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to physical protection, scheduled through June 30, 2013. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. In addition to the baseline inspections, the NRC will perform Temporary Instruction 2515/182, "Review of the Implementation of the Industry Initiative to Control Degradation of Underground Piping," in July 2012. The inspections listed during the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the mid-cycle performance review. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes.

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 the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Please contact me at 610-337-5200 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Dr. Ronald R. Bellamy, Branch Chief
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure: Vermont Yankee Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl: Distribution via ListServ

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUNSI Review		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/> Sensitive		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publicly Available <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Publicly Available	
OFFICE	RI/DRP	RI/DRP			
NAME	TSetzer	RBellamy			
DATE	02/29/12	03/01/12			

Vermont Yankee
Inspection / Activity Plan
01/01/2012 - 06/30/2013

Unit Number	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
			71003 - LR COMMITMENTS INSP		6
1	01/09/2012	01/13/2012	IP 71003	Post-Approval Site Inspection for License Renewal	
1	01/23/2012	01/27/2012	IP 71003	Post-Approval Site Inspection for License Renewal	
			71124 - RAD HAZARD ACCESS/ALARA		1
1	04/09/2012	04/12/2012	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
1	04/09/2012	04/12/2012	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
			9/24EXM - VY INITIAL OL EXAM		5
1	07/30/2012	08/03/2012	U01851	FY12-VERMONT YANKEE INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSING EXAM	
1	08/27/2012	08/31/2012	U01851	FY12-VERMONT YANKEE INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSING EXAM	
1	09/24/2012	10/05/2012	U01851	FY12-VERMONT YANKEE INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSING EXAM	
			7111107T - TRIENNIAL HEAT SINK		1
1	05/21/2012	05/25/2012	IP 7111107T	Heat Sink Performance	
			MODS - PERMANENT PLANT MODIFICATIONS		4
1	06/04/2012	06/08/2012	IP 7111117T	Evaluations of Changes, Tests, or Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications	
1	06/18/2012	06/22/2012	IP 7111117T	Evaluations of Changes, Tests, or Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications	
			7111111B - VY ON-SITE REQUAL INSP W/ P/F RESULTS		2
1	07/23/2012	07/27/2012	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program	
			71124 - RAD AIRBORNE & DOSE ASSESSMENT & ISFSI		1
1	07/09/2012	07/13/2012	IP 60855	Operation Of An ISFSI	
1	07/09/2012	07/13/2012	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
1	07/09/2012	07/13/2012	IP 71124.04	Occupational Dose Assessment	
			TI 182 - DEGRADATION OF UNDERGROUND PIPING		1
1	07/16/2012	07/20/2012	IP 2515/182	Review of the Implementation of the Industry Initiative to Control Degradation of Underground Piping	
			EP PROGR - EP PROGRAM INSPECTION		1
1	09/10/2012	09/21/2012	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing	
1	09/10/2012	09/21/2012	IP 7111403	Emergency Preparedness Organization Staffing and Augmentation System	
1	09/10/2012	09/21/2012	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies	
			71124.05 - RAD MONT INSTRUMENT		1
1	09/10/2012	09/13/2012	IP 71124.05	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	
			92702 - FOLLOWUP TO CONFIRMATORY ORDER (QA/QC)		1
1	10/01/2012	12/31/2012	IP 92702	Followup On Corrective Actions For Violations And Deviations	
			71152 - QUARTERLY PI&R SAMPLE -TAGGING		1
1	10/15/2012	10/19/2012	IP 71152	Problem Identification and Resolution	

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

Unit Number	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
			71124	- RADIOACTIVE EFFLUENT MONITORTREATMENT PI	1
1	11/05/2012	11/08/2012	IP 71124.06	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	
1	11/05/2012	11/08/2012	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
1	11/05/2012	11/08/2012	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	
			INSP	- OPERATION OF AN ISFSI	1
1	03/01/2013	06/30/2013	IP 60855	Operation Of An ISFSI	
			711108G	- INSERVICE INSPECTION	1
1	03/11/2013	03/15/2013	IP 7111108G	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR	
			71124	- HP INSPECTION 01 02 03 & 04	1
1	03/11/2013	03/15/2013	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
1	03/11/2013	03/15/2013	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
1	03/11/2013	03/15/2013	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
1	03/11/2013	03/15/2013	IP 71124.04	Occupational Dose Assessment	
			71124.07	- RAD ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PROGRAM	1
1	04/14/2013	04/19/2013	IP 71124.07	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program	
			71124.08	- RADWASTE	1
1	05/13/2013	05/17/2013	IP 71124.08	Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation	
			EP EX	- EP EXERCISE EVALUATION	5
1	06/03/2013	06/07/2013	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation	
1	06/03/2013	06/07/2013	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
			PI&R	- PI&R	4
1	06/03/2013	06/07/2013	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	
1	06/17/2013	06/21/2013	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	