

August 26, 2002

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

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN-
VERMONT YANKEE

Dear Mr. Thayer:

On August 6, 2002, the NRC staff completed its mid-cycle plant performance assessment of Vermont Yankee. In accordance with NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 0305 "Operating Reactor Assessment Program", the mid-cycle review involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating the performance of your Vermont Yankee facility for the first half of the current assessment cycle, January 1-December 31, 2002. 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 so that you will have an opportunity to prepare for these inspections and to inform us of any planned inspections which may conflict with your plant activities.

Plant performance for the most recent quarter was within the Degraded Cornerstone column of the NRC's Action Matrix based on a finding of substantial safety significance (YELLOW) in the physical protection cornerstone. This finding was associated with response strategy weaknesses identified during an Operational Safeguards Response Evaluation (OSRE) conducted during the week of August 20, 2001. The finding is considered in the assessment process until the appropriate supplemental inspection has been completed and we have finalized our review of your actions to address the response strategy weaknesses identified during the OSRE.

The NRC has taken a number of actions to confirm the effectiveness of your compensatory measures since the OSRE inspection. These actions included direct inspections or audits involving NRC security specialists from both the regional and headquarters offices. We also plan to conduct a supplemental inspection, using Inspection Procedure 95002, during the week of September 23, 2002. This inspection will be performed to provide additional assurance that the long-term corrective actions are appropriately responsive to the root and contributing causes for the performance issues.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections scheduled through September 30, 2003. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for scheduling conflicts and personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature.

The last six months of the inspection plan is tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review.

In addition, the NRC is in the process of finalizing a Temporary Instruction (TI) that will be used to review implementation of the Interim Compensatory Measures required by the Agency's Security Order to all commercial nuclear power plants dated February 25, 2002. Schedules have not yet been finalized, but it is anticipated that these inspections will begin within the next calendar quarter. Once finalized, the details will be communicated by separate correspondence.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 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 the inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact Mr. Clifford J. Anderson at (610) 337-5227 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Hubert J. Miller
Regional Administrator

Docket No. 50-271
Licensee No. DPR-28

Enclosure: Vermont Yankee Inspection /Activity Plan

cc w/encl: M. R. Kansler, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
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State of Vermont, SLO Designee
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OFFICE	RI/DRP	RI/DRP	RI/DRP	RI/ORA
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DATE	08/23/02	08/23/02	08/23/02	08/24/02

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Vermont Yankee
Inspection / Activity Plan
06/30/2002 - 09/30/2003

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	711111B	- L.O. REQUALIFICATION PROGRAM	2			
1	IP 711111B	Licensed Operator Requalification		07/15/2002	07/19/2002	Baseline Inspections
	8/12 EXM	- OPERATOR LICENSING INITIAL EXAMS	3			
1	U01490	VERMONT YANKEE, INITIAL EXAM (8/12-16/02)		07/17/2002	07/19/2002	Not Applicable
1	U01490	VERMONT YANKEE, INITIAL EXAM (8/12-16/02)		08/12/2002	08/16/2002	Not Applicable
	71121	- OCC RAD SAFETY	1			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		08/26/2002	08/30/2002	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		08/26/2002	08/30/2002	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment		08/26/2002	08/30/2002	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		08/26/2002	08/30/2002	Baseline Inspections
	95002	- SECURITY YELLOW FINDINGS	2			
1	IP 95002	Inspection For One Degraded Cornerstone Or Any Three White Inputs In A Strategic Performar		09/23/2002	09/27/2002	Supplemental Program
	7111108	- INSERVICE INSPECTION	1			
1	IP 7111108	Inservice Inspection Activities		10/14/2002	10/18/2002	Baseline Inspections
	71121	- OCC RAD SAFETY	1			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		10/21/2002	10/25/2002	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		10/21/2002	10/25/2002	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment		10/21/2002	10/25/2002	Baseline Inspections
	7112201	- PUB RAD SAFETY - RETS	1			
1	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		10/21/2002	10/25/2002	Baseline Inspections
	7111107B	- HEAT SINK	1			
1	IP 7111107B	Heat Sink Performance		11/18/2002	11/22/2002	Baseline Inspections
	71121	- OCC RAD SAFETY	1			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		01/27/2003	01/31/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		01/27/2003	01/31/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment		01/27/2003	01/31/2003	Baseline Inspections
	71130	- SECURITY	1			
1	IP 7113001	Access Authorization Program (Behavior Observation Only)		03/10/2003	03/14/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7113002	Access Control (Search of Personnel, Packages, and Vehicles: Identification and Authorizator		03/10/2003	03/14/2003	Baseline Inspections
	7111401	- EP EXERCISE & PI VERIFICATION	3			
1	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation		04/07/2003	04/11/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		04/07/2003	04/11/2003	Baseline Inspections
	711117B	- PERMANENT PLANT MODS	3			
1	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		04/28/2003	05/02/2003	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
06/30/2002 - 09/30/2003

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	711117B	- PERMANENT PLANT MODS	3			
1	IP 711117B	Permanent Plant Modifications		04/28/2003	05/02/2003	Baseline Inspections
	71121	- OCC RAD SAFETY	1			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		05/05/2003	05/09/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		05/05/2003	05/09/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment		05/05/2003	05/09/2003	Baseline Inspections
	71122.03	- REMP	1			
1	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program		07/07/2003	07/11/2003	Baseline Inspections
	71152B	- PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION AND RESOLUTION	4			
1	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		09/08/2003	09/12/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		09/22/2003	09/26/2003	Baseline Inspections
	71121	- OCC RAD SAFETY	1			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		09/15/2003	09/19/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		09/15/2003	09/19/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment		09/15/2003	09/19/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		09/15/2003	09/19/2003	Baseline Inspections
	10/6 EXM	- OPERATOR LICENSING INITIAL EXAMS	3			
1	U01498	VERMONT YANKEE INITIAL EXAM (6/16/03)		09/08/2003	09/12/2003	Not Applicable
	71130.03	- SECURITY	2			
1	IP 7113003	Response to Contingency Events (Protective Strategy and Implementation of Protective Strategy)		09/22/2003	09/26/2003	Baseline Inspections
	711112B	- MAINT RULE	1			
1	IP 711112B	Maintenance Effectiveness		09/29/2003	10/03/2003	Baseline Inspections