



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

September 2, 2008

Mr. Theodore A. Sullivan
Site Vice President
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station
Vernon, VT 05354

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN
VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION**

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

On August 7, 2008, the NRC staff completed its performance review of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station for the first half of the calendar year 2008 assessment cycle. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results over the previous twelve months. 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 cornerstone review and resultant inspection plan.

Plant performance for the three most recent quarters 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). There was a finding of low to moderate safety significance (White) in the Public Radiation Safety cornerstone in the third quarter of 2007, the NRC completed a supplemental inspection and documented the results in NRC Inspection Report 05000271/2007009. As a result of that inspection, this finding was closed, and was not considered for current plant assessment purposes. Therefore, we plan to conduct reactor oversight process (ROP) baseline inspections at your facility. In addition, we plan to conduct an independent spent fuel storage installation inspection.

The staff identified that there were six Green findings for the current twelve month assessment period with a documented cross-cutting aspect in the area of human performance, and that there was a common cross-cutting theme associated with these findings. The theme was a failure to ensure that complete, accurate, and up-to-date design documentation, procedures, and work packages were available and adequate to assure nuclear safety [H.2(c)]. As a result of the apparent cause evaluation and the common cause analysis that you performed to address the cross-cutting theme, you identified that procedure adequacy was a contributor to a larger problem at Vermont Yankee with respect to procedure use and compliance.

In evaluating the scope of efforts and progress in addressing the cross-cutting theme, the NRC staff determined that Entergy has recognized the cross-cutting theme and has initiated action to develop a procedure quality improvement plan. Therefore, the staff has determined that a substantive cross-cutting issue in human performance does not exist at this time. We will monitor your progress in the area of procedure adequacy through the baseline inspection program, including a focused review of your proposed corrective action plan. In addition, we will review your progress and completed actions during the biennial problem identification and resolution inspection scheduled for the second quarter of 2009.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to physical protection, scheduled through December 31, 2009. 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 end-of-cycle safety performance review.

In accordance with 10CFR2.390 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 me at 610-337-5306 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA Original Signed by:/

Donald E. Jackson, Chief
Projects Branch 5
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure: Vermont Yankee Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl:

Vice President, Operations, Entergy Nuclear Operations
Senior Vice President, Entergy Nuclear Operations
Vice President, Oversight, Entergy Nuclear Operations
Senior Manager, Nuclear Safety & Licensing, Entergy Nuclear Operations
Senior Vice President and COO, Entergy Nuclear Operations
Assistant General Counsel, Entergy Nuclear Operations
Manager, Licensing, Entergy Nuclear Operations
Hon. Molly Kelly, New Hampshire Senate
S. Lousteau, Treasury Department, Entergy Services, Inc.

T. Sullivan

3

D. O' Dowd, Administrator, Radiological Health Section, DPHS, State of New Hampshire

W. Irwin, Chief, CHP, Radiological Health, Vermont Department of Health

Chief, Safety Unit, Office of the Attorney General, Commonwealth of Mass.

D. Lewis, Pillsbury, Winthrop, Shaw, Pittman LLP

G. D. Bisbee, Esquire, Deputy Attorney General, Environmental Protection Bureau

J. P. Matteau, Executive Director, Windham Regional Commission

D. Katz, Citizens Awareness Network (CAN)

R. Shadis, New England Coalition Staff

G. Sachs, President/Staff Person, c/o Stopthesale

J. Volz, Chairman, Public Service Board, State of Vermont

Chairman, Board of Selectman, Town of Vernon

C. Pope, State of New Hampshire, SLO

D. O'Brien, State of Vermont, SLO

J. Giarrusso, SLO, MEMA, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

J. Angil, II, Manager, Vermont Emergency Management Agency

U. Vanags, State Nuclear Engineer, Vermont Department of Public Service

J. Block, Esquire

S. Shaw

G. Edwards

Vermont Yankee
Inspection / Activity Plan
08/01/2008 - 12/31/2009

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
	ISFSI	- ISFSI INSPECTIONS	1			
1	IP 60854.1	Preoperational Testing of Independent Spent Fuel Storage Facility Installation at Operating Plants		01/28/2008	10/31/2008	Other Routine
1	IP 60855.1	Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants		01/28/2008	10/31/2008	Other Routine
	7111121	- CDBI	6			
1	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection		08/04/2008	08/08/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection		08/11/2008	08/15/2008	Baseline Inspections
	71121	- OCC RAD SAFETY	1			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		09/08/2008	09/12/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		09/08/2008	09/12/2008	Baseline Inspections
	7111118	- INSP OF MOD TO SR COOLING TOWER CELLS	2			
1	IP 7111118	Plant Modifications		09/22/2008	09/26/2008	Baseline Inspections
	71122.02	- PUB RAD SAFETY - RADWASTE	1			
1	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation		10/06/2008	10/10/2008	Baseline Inspections
	2/9 EXM	- INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMS	4			
1	U01743	FY09 - VERMONT YANKEE INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSING EXAM		01/12/2009	01/16/2009	Not Applicable
1	U01743	FY09 - VERMONT YANKEE INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSING EXAM		02/09/2009	02/20/2009	Not Applicable
	EP	- EP PROGRAM INSPECTION	1			
1	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing		10/05/2008	10/10/2008	EP Baseline Inspection
1	IP 7111403	Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing		10/05/2008	10/10/2008	EP Baseline Inspection
1	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		10/05/2008	10/10/2008	EP Baseline Inspection
1	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies		10/05/2008	10/10/2008	EP Baseline Inspection
1	IP 71151-EP01	Drill/Exercise Performance		10/05/2008	10/10/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151-EP02	ERO Drill Participation		10/05/2008	10/10/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151-EP03	Alert & Notification System		10/05/2008	10/10/2008	Baseline Inspections
	7111108G	- INSERVICE INSPECTION	1			
1	IP 7111108G	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR		10/20/2008	10/24/2008	Baseline Inspections
	71121	- OCC RAD SAFETY	2			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		10/27/2008	10/31/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		10/27/2008	10/31/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness		10/27/2008	10/31/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent		10/27/2008	10/31/2008	Baseline Inspections
	TI 176	- TI 176	1			
1	IP 2515/176	Emergency Diesel Generator Tech Spec Surveillance Requirements Re: Endurance & Margin		11/17/2008	11/21/2008	Generic Safety Inspectio
	7112201	- PUB RAD SAFETY - RETS	1			
1	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		12/01/2008	12/05/2008	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
08/01/2008 - 12/31/2009

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	ISFSI	- ANNUAL SAMPLE - ISFSI INSPECTION	1			
1	IP 60855	Operation Of An ISFSI		01/01/2009	12/31/2009	Other Routine
	71121	- OCC RAD SAFETY	1			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		03/02/2009	03/06/2009	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		03/02/2009	03/06/2009	Baseline Inspections
	71152B	- PI&R BIENNIAL TEAM	4			
1	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		04/06/2009	04/10/2009	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		04/20/2009	04/24/2009	Baseline Inspections
	71122.03	- PUB RAD SAFETY - REMP	1			
1	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program (REMP) And Radioactive Material Control Program		05/18/2009	05/22/2009	Baseline Inspections
	EP EXER	- EP EXERCISE INSPECTION	2			
1	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation		06/07/2009	06/13/2009	EP Baseline Inspection
1	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		06/07/2009	06/13/2009	EP Baseline Inspection
1	IP 71151-EP01	Drill/Exercise Performance		06/07/2009	06/13/2009	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151-EP02	ERO Drill Participation		06/07/2009	06/13/2009	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151-EP03	Alert & Notification System		06/07/2009	06/13/2009	Baseline Inspections
	7111107T	- HEAT SINK INSP	1			
1	IP 7111107T	Heat Sink Performance		09/21/2009	09/25/2009	Baseline Inspections
	MODS	- PERMANENT PLANT MODIFICATIONS	5			
1	IP 7111117T	Evaluations of Changes, Tests, or Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications		11/02/2009	11/06/2009	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111117T	Evaluations of Changes, Tests, or Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications		11/16/2009	11/20/2009	Baseline Inspections

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