

April 20, 2001

Mr. Michael A. Balduzzi
Vice President, Operations
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation
185 Old Ferry Road
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Brattleboro, VT 05302-7002

SUBJECT: VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION - ISSUANCE OF
AMENDMENT RE: 24 VDC BATTERIES AND CHARGERS (TAC NO. MB0626)

Dear Mr. Balduzzi:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 201 to Facility Operating License DPR-28 for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station, in response to your application dated November 27, 2000.

The amendment eliminates the specifications associated with the 24 Vdc Emergency Core Cooling System (ECCS) instrumentation batteries and chargers. The 24 Vdc ECCS instrumentation loads will be transferred to the 125 Vdc main station batteries.

A copy of the related Safety Evaluation is also enclosed. Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's biweekly Federal Register notice.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Robert M. Pulsifer, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-271

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 201 to
License No. DPR-28
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

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ACCESSION NUMBER: ML010320045 *Input received on 1/18/01. No major changes made.

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OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station

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VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION

DOCKET NO. 50-271

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 201
License No. DPR-28

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment filed by the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation (the licensee) dated November 27, 2000, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;
 - C. There is reasonable assurance: (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations;
 - D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and
 - E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

2. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment, and paragraph 3.B of Facility Operating License No. DPR-28 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(B) Technical Specifications

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A, as revised through Amendment No. 201, are hereby incorporated in the license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications.

3. This license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance and shall be implemented within 60 days.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

James W. Clifford, Chief, Section 2
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: April 20, 2001

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 201

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-28

DOCKET NO. 50-271

Replace the following pages of the Appendix A Technical Specifications with the attached revised pages. The revised pages are identified by amendment number and contain marginal lines indicating the areas of change.

Remove

213
216
221a
222

Insert

213
216
221a
222

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 201 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-28
VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION
VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION
DOCKET NO. 50-271

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated November 27, 2000, the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation (VYNPC, the licensee) submitted a request to amend the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (VYNPS) Technical Specifications (TSs). The proposed amendment would revise the TSs to eliminate the specifications associated with the 24 Vdc Emergency Core Cooling System (ECCS) instrumentation batteries and chargers. The 24 Vdc ECCS instrumentation loads will be transferred to the 125 Vdc main station batteries.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The 24 Vdc power systems are to provide the power for operation of the ECCS Analog Trip System. There are two redundant and independent 24 Vdc systems. Each system consists of a battery, a battery charger, and a distribution panel. The equipment was added to the station distribution system by a design change. At the time of installation, VYNPC decided that the added load of the Analog Trip System would reduce the spare capacity of the main station battery to an undesirable level.

VYNPC is planning to remove the 24 Vdc ECCS instrumentation system batteries and chargers and replace them with two 125/24 Vdc power supplies and associated 125 Vdc supply feeders to the existing 125 Vdc Main Station Battery distribution panels. The licensee stated in the request that the Main Station Batteries have sufficient capacity to supply the load directly.

The following proposed TS changes are related to TSs associated with the 24 Vdc ECCS Instrumentation batteries and chargers.

2.1. TS 3.10 Limiting Conditions for Operation

Section 3.10.A.2d currently states:

Both ECCS Instrumentation batteries, associated chargers, and distribution panels.

Section 3.10.B.2.c currently states:

From and after the date that one of the two 24 volt ECCS Instrumentation Battery Systems is made or found to be inoperable for any reason, continued reactor operation is permissible only during the succeeding three days unless such Battery System is sooner made operable.

TS Sections 3.10. A. 2d and 3. 10. B. 2c would be deleted.

2.2 TS 4.10 Surveillance Requirements

In Section 4.10. A. 2. c reference to "ECCS battery" and in Section 4.10.A.2.d reference to "ECCS" would be deleted.

2.3 TS Bases 3. 10. B and 4. 10. B would be revised to delete the discussion of ECCS Instrumentation Batteries and the reference to ECCS Instrumentation Battery to reflect the proposed TS change.

3.0 EVALUATION

At VYNPS, each of the two 125 Vdc main station battery systems is independent and capable of supplying its loads. Each charger is capable of supplying normal dc loads, maintain the floating charge on its associated battery, and recharging the battery if it is discharged. Currently, a single standby/swing battery charger is also available and can be manually connected to either 125 Vdc main station battery bus. (The licensee is planning to replace the single standby/swing charger with a dedicated battery charger for each battery.) The replacement of the power source will not change the function of the system. The battery chargers will remain within their capacities and will be powered from emergency diesel generator (EDG) supplied sources as are currently powered. The EDG loading is essentially unchanged, and single failure criteria is preserved. This is acceptable because there is no significant change in the operation of equipment. The change is only of the source of power to the ECCS instrumentation loads.

The proposed change will add a small load to the VYNPS 125 Vdc main station batteries. Redundancy and reliability will be maintained and the equipment will operate essentially the same as it now operates. The equipment supplied by the DC system will perform their safety functions and will be provided with adequate, redundant, reliable, safety class DC power. This is acceptable because it will meet the requirement of 10 CFR Part 50, "Domestic Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities," Appendix A, "General Design Criteria for Nuclear Power Plants," GDC 17, "Electric Power Systems." The change would also eliminate the need for maintenance and testing of the 24 Vdc ECCS batteries and chargers. Because these changes would have a minimal effect on the 125 Vdc main station batteries, these changes are acceptable.

The associated Bases changes reflect the elimination of the 24 Vdc ECCS batteries and the staff has no objection to these changes.

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the Vermont State official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendment. The State official had no comments.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendment changes a requirement with respect to installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20 and changes surveillance requirements. The NRC staff has determined that the amendment involves no significant increase in amounts, and no significant change in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and that there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding (66 FR 2024). Accordingly, the amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b), no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of the amendment.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission has concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that: (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and (3) the issuance of the amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributor: Saba N. Saba

Date: April 20, 2001