

March 15, 2001

Mr. Michael J. Mulligan
Hinsdale, NH 03451

Dear Mr. Mulligan:

This letter acknowledges your e-mail dated February 23, 2001, to Victor Dricks at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regarding the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (Vermont Yankee). We have reviewed the information and questions that you provided and have forwarded them to our Region I office for consideration and inclusion in their assessment of this facility.

In your e-mail, you asked for information related to maintenance of the reactor water cleanup system and the associated cost to Vermont Yankee. The NRC does not collect or maintain the information you requested. Your e-mail also questioned the implications of repeated maintenance on the equipment and on plant safety. The reactor water cleanup system is not a safety-related system and would be automatically isolated from the reactor under accident conditions. However, the cleanup system is necessary to maintain the radioiodine concentration in the reactor coolant within Technical Specification limits. Vermont Yankee's performance in this area is monitored by the NRC and the information is reflected in the NRC Performance Indicator for Reactor Coolant System Specific Activity. This information is publicly available from the NRC web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/index.html>.

In addition, our ongoing Reactor Oversight Process has not identified any safety concerns related to reactor water cleanup pump seal failures at Vermont Yankee. We will continue to evaluate the plant and Vermont Yankee's performance through this process. We appreciate your continued interest in reactor safety.

Sincerely,
/RA/

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

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