VERMONT YANKEE
NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION

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March 8, 2001
BVY 01-20

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: **Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station**
License No. DPR-28 (Docket No. 50-271)
Technical Specification Proposed Change No. 239
Refueling Interlocks - Supplement

Reference: (a) Letter, VYNPC to USNRC, "Technical Specification Proposed Change No. 239, Refueling Interlocks," BVY 00-90, dated November 30, 2000

By Reference (a), Vermont Yankee (VY) requested an amendment to Facility Operating License DPR-28 and its associated Technical Specifications (TS) regarding requirements for refueling interlocks. One aspect of the proposed change involved the frequency of surveillance testing contained in TS 4.12.A. VY intended to increase this specific surveillance interval based on a generic proposal under review by NRC's Technical Specifications Task Force (TSTF). In discussions with NRC staff it now appears that approval of the TSTF item is delayed and may require additional actions. Consequently, due to the forthcoming refueling outage, VY has decided to withdraw this one specific change from Proposed Change No. 239 (PC-239) and retain the current 7-day surveillance interval.

Therefore, VY is hereby amending PC-239 by deleting the proposed increase in surveillance interval in TS 4.12.A that would have changed the test frequency to every 31 days. In Attachment 1 of Reference (a) this is identified as Change No. 5, which is now being deleted in its entirety. This is the only change to PC-239. Thus, the current surveillance frequency of TS 4.12.A will be retained. All other provisions of the Reference (a) amendment request are unchanged and remain as proposed. Withdrawal of this one aspect of the amendment request does not otherwise alter the Safety Assessment, or the Determination of No Significant Hazards Consideration contained within Reference (a).

Attachment 1 to this letter contains a revised, marked-up page (i.e., page 229) of the current Technical Specifications. Attachment 2 is the retyped Technical Specification page.

A001

If you have any questions on this transmittal, please contact Mr. Thomas B. Silko at (802) 258-4146.

Sincerely,

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION

Michael A. Balduzzi
Vice President, Operations

STATE OF VERMONT)
)ss
WINDHAM COUNTY)

Then personally appeared before me, Michael A. Balduzzi, who, being duly sworn, did state that he is Vice President, Operations of Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation, that he is duly authorized to execute and file the foregoing document in the name and on the behalf of Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation, and that the statements therein are true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Sally A. Sandstrum, Notary Public
My Commission Expires February 10, 2003

Attachments

cc: USNRC Region 1 Administrator
USNRC Resident Inspector - VYNPS
USNRC Project Manager - VYNPS
Vermont Department of Public Service

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION

Docket No. 50-271
BVY 01-20

Attachment 1

Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station

Proposed Technical Specification Change No. 239

Refueling Interlocks - Supplement

Marked-up Version of the Current Technical Specifications

3.12 LIMITING CONDITIONS FOR OPERATION

3.12 REFUELING AND SPENT FUEL HANDLING

Applicability:

Applies to fuel handling, core reactivity limitations, and spent fuel handling. -

Objective:

To assure core reactivity is within capability of the control rods, to prevent criticality during refueling, and to assure safe handling of spent fuel casks.

Specification:

A. Refueling Interlocks

The reactor mode switch shall be locked in the "Refuel" position during core alterations and; ~~the refueling interlocks, listed below, shall be operable except as specified in Specifications 3.12.D and 3.12.E.~~

INSERT 1 ⇒ [1]

1. Control Rod Blocks

   a. Mode switch in Startup/Hot Standby and refueling platform over the reactor. [2]

   b. Fuel on any refueling hoist and refueling platform over the reactor. [3]

   c. Mode switch in Refuel with one control rod withdrawal permit. [3]

2. Refueling Platform Reverse Motion (toward reactor vessel) Block

   a. Mode switch in Startup/Hot Standby. [2]

4.12 SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS

4.12 REFUELING AND SPENT FUEL HANDLING

Applicability:

Applies to the periodic testing of those interlocks and instruments used during refueling and to the testing of the reactor building crane.

Objective:

To verify the operability of instrumentation and interlocks used in refueling and the operability of the reactor building crane.

Specification:

A. Refueling Interlocks

Prior to any fuel handling, with the Head off the reactor vessel, the refueling interlocks shall be functionally tested. ~~They shall also be tested at weekly intervals thereafter until no longer required and following any repair work associated with the interlocks~~. [5] [6]

Following required

ONCE EVERY 7 DAYS

INPUTS

[3] INSERT 2

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION

Docket No. 50-271
BVY 01-20

Attachment 2

Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station

Proposed Technical Specification Change No. 239

Refueling Interlocks - Supplement

Retyped Technical Specification Page

3.12 LIMITING CONDITIONS FOR OPERATION

3.12 REFUELING AND SPENT FUEL HANDLING

Applicability:

Applies to fuel handling, core reactivity limitations, and spent fuel handling.

Objective:

To assure core reactivity is within capability of the control rods, to prevent criticality during refueling, and to assure safe handling of spent fuel casks.

Specification:

A. Refueling Interlocks

The reactor mode switch shall be locked in the "Refuel" position during core alterations and;

1. The refueling interlocks shall be operable during in-vessel fuel movement for the equipment utilized in moving fuel.

   If one or more of the required refueling interlocks are inoperable;

   Immediately suspend fuel movement with equipment associated with the inoperable interlock(s),

   -or-

   Immediately insert a control rod withdrawal block and verify all control rods are fully inserted.

2. The refueling interlocks shall be operable except as specified in Specification 3.12.D and 3.12.E.

4.12 SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS

4.12 REFUELING AND SPENT FUEL HANDLING

Applicability:

Applies to the periodic testing of those interlocks and instruments used during refueling and to the testing of the reactor building crane.

Objective:

To verify the operability of instrumentation and interlocks used in refueling and the operability of the reactor building crane.

Specification:

A. Refueling Interlocks

Prior to any fuel handling, with the Head off the reactor vessel, the following required refueling interlock inputs shall be functionally tested once every 7 days:

a. All-rods-in;
b. Refuel platform position;
c. Refuel platform fuel grapple, fuel loaded;
d. Refuel platform frame mounted hoist, fuel loaded;
e. Refuel platform monorail mounted hoist, fuel loaded.