

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION

SEVENTY SEVEN GROVE STREET
RUTLAND, VERMONT 05701

B.4.2.1
WVY 79-127

October 29, 1979

REPLY TO:
ENGINEERING OFFICE
TURNPIKE ROAD
WESTBORO, MASSACHUSETTS 01581
TELEPHONE 617-366-9011

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Region I
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Attention: Mr. Boyce Grier

References: (a) Docket 50-271 (License No. DPR-28)
(b) Vermont Yankee Letter to USNRC, WVY 79-85, dated 7/31/79
(c) I&E Bulletin No. 79-02, Revision 1, Supplement 1

Dear Mr. Grier:

Subject: Anchor Bolt Replacement at Vermont Yankee

Reference (b) described the anchor bolt replacement program at Vermont Yankee. In that letter we committed to complete the replacement program within three weeks following plant startup.

Since that time we have had approximately twenty engineering support personnel and one hundred crafts people involved in the inspection, replacement and, where necessary, re-design of supports in fulfillment of the program requirements.

Approximately 450 supports containing 2500 anchor bolts require anchor bolt replacement. We anticipate that approximately one-half of the total number of supports will be completed by the end of the refueling outage. This figure includes all of the supports inaccessible during plant operation and all of the resonant supports.

There are several reasons for the lower than hoped for completion rate:

1. The original completion date was established based on a small sample size for judging production rate;
2. A final tally on the total number of supports and anchors was not available at that time;
3. Installation of torus modifications interfered with work in the lower level of the reactor building;

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4. Self-imposed, conservative engineering requirements, which require welding washer plates to the support baseplates, delay the completion of a support;
5. Support accessibility is extremely difficult in some locations.

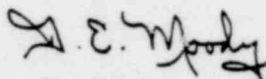
Subsequent to our Reference (b) commitment the NRC issued Reference (c), which stated that plant operation could continue or resume as long as supports and anchor bolts had a factor of safety of two (2) or greater.

Vermont Yankee established with the NRC early in the program that all supports and anchor bolts at Vermont Yankee had a factor of safety well in excess of two; only in the case of resonant lines did the factor of safety approach two. Replacement of anchor bolts in all such lines was completed prior to plant shutdown.

Thus, in light of the revised NRC criteria in Reference (c), Vermont Yankee is modifying its previous commitment. We will continue with our anchor bolt replacement program following plant startup until all anchor bolts are replaced. We anticipate completion on or before March 1, 1980.

Very truly yours,

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION



D. E. Moody
Manager of Operations

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