



VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION

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FVY 82-60

REPLY TO:

ENGINEERING OFFICE

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May 27, 1982

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Attention: Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Mr. D. G. Eisenhut, Director
Division of Licensing

Reference: License No. DPR-28 (Docket No. 50-271)

Subject: NUREG-0619 - Response to NRC's Request for Additional
Information

Dear Sir:

At a March 29, 1982 meeting with the NRC, Vermont Yankee presented information supporting our position that the presently installed feedwater spargers were performing well and did not require replacement in accordance with NUREG-0619 requirements. Subsequent to this meeting, the Staff has requested additional information/commitments concerning our future plans. The following information is provided in response to that request.

1. Ultrasonic Examination Results and Criteria

See Attachment 1 for results from, and criteria used in, the 1979 UT examination and to be utilized in future UT exams. Specific findings on the feedwater nozzle inspections of 1979 can be found on pages 28 and 29 of Attachment 2.

2. Future UT Examinations

Vermont Yankee will perform an Ultrasonic Examination of the Blend Radius/Bore Region at the 1983 Refueling Outage. This inspection will be part of a continuing developmental program. Results will be compared to previously obtained data.

3. Startup-Shutdown Cycles to Date From 1972 to Present

Number of thermal cycles from 1972 to 1976 - 76

Number of thermal cycles from 1976 to April, 1982 - 43.

It should be noted that the recent thermal cycle history at Vermont Yankee (less than 10 cycles per year) results in a significantly better feedwater thermal duty map than that assumed in previous analyses done by General Electric.

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4. Replacement Sparger Design

If thermal sleeve bypass leakage increases at some time in the future and Vermont Yankee is required to replace its present design spargers, the GE designed double piston ring/triple sleeve sparger will not be used as it is incompatible with the Vermont Yankee nozzle geometry. If sparger replacement eventually is required, with our present information, we would most likely choose a welded type of triple sleeve sparger similar to that recently installed at the Monticello Station. Vermont Yankee will continue to stay informed concerning the performance of the welded design and any other designs which may be developed so that if replacement is required at some future time, the best plant specific design can be chosen.

Since the March 29, 1982 meeting, Vermont Yankee has been awaiting an NRC decision regarding our position. We have continued to pursue this matter with General Electric, and found that delivery of necessary hardware to implement this modification, if required, would take 48 weeks. At present, less than 44 weeks remain until our scheduled 1983 refueling outage, which means that even now an expedited equipment delivery schedule would be necessary. We, therefore, request that the NRC inform us to their decision in this matter no later than June 4, 1982.

Very truly yours,

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION



R. L. Smith
Project Engineer