

May 24, 1985

Docket No. 50-271

Mr. R. W. Capstick
Licensing Engineer
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation
1671 Worcester Road
Framingham, Massachusetts 01701

Dear Mr. Capstick:

SUBJECT: NUREG-0737, ITEM II.F.2,
INADEQUATE CORE COOLING INSTRUMENTATION

Re: Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station

On October 26, 1984, the NRC staff sent Generic Letter (GL) No. 84-23 (Reactor Vessel Water Level Instrumentation in BWRs) to Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation and other BWR licensees. This generic letter outlined the importance of reactor vessel water level instrumentation in BWRs. The staff concluded that permanent physical improvements should be made on a deliberate schedule to reduce the burden on the operator. Two improvement categories were proposed that, if implemented, would result in increased assurance that the level instrumentation will provide the inadequate core cooling instrumentation required by NUREG-0737, Item II.F.2. Licensees were asked to submit descriptions of plans to implement these improvements and a proposed schedule.

By letters dated December 6, 1984 and March 28, 1985, you responded to GL 84-23 and indicated that you intend to replace the existing Yarway Columns and cold reference column with a dual cold leg arrangement. The Yarway Columns are to be replaced to allow the reference legs to operate at a lower temperature, thus reducing the possibility of boiling/flashings the water in the reference legs. Replacement of the Yarway Columns will also minimize level inaccuracies resulting from density variations due to elevated drywell temperatures. In addition to replacing the Yarway Column, the existing cold reference leg is also to be replaced to simplify calibrations. The proposed implementation date for modification (during the next outage scheduled to begin in September 1985) is acceptable.

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PDR

Your letters also addressed the second improvement category: replacement of mechanical level indication equipment with analog level transmitters. Currently, all mechanical level indication equipment used for reactor water level measurement has been replaced with analog level transmitters. We find that the above action already taken at the Vermont Yankee facility adequately addresses the second improvement category and, therefore, we find no further modifications are necessary at this time.

This completes our review of NUREG-0737, Item II.F.2 for the Vermont Yankee facility.

Sincerely,

Original signed by/

Domenic B. Vassallo, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #2
Division of Licensing

cc: See next page

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Mr. R. W. Capstick
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station

cc:

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