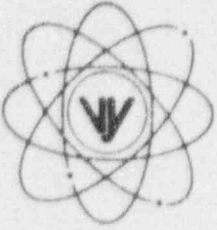


VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION



Ferry Road, Brattleboro, VT 05301-7002

REPLY TO
ENGINEERING OFFICE
580 MAIN STREET
BOLTON, MA 01740
(508) 779-6711

September 25, 1996
BVY 96-110

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

References: (a) License No. DPR-28 (Docket No. 50-271)
(b) NRC Bulletin 80-13, "Cracking in Core Spray Spargers," dated May 12, 1980
(c) Letter, VYNPC to USNRC, "Results of Core Spray Sparger Inspection," WVY 80-164, dated December 1, 1980
(d) Telecon, VYNPC to USNRC, dated September 9, 1996

Subject: Core Spray System Inspection at Vermont Yankee

The purpose of this letter is to inform the NRC of Vermont Yankee's intentions regarding inspection of the core spray system internal to the reactor vessel. The material of the core spray system internal to the vessel is 304 stainless steel.

Reference (c) states that Vermont Yankee will conduct visual examination of the core spray piping and spargers internal to the reactor vessel in accordance with NRC Bulletin 80-13 [Reference (b)].

As discussed with your Staff [Reference (d)], Vermont Yankee will inspect the piping portion of the core spray system internal to the reactor vessel from the nozzle to the shroud penetration in accordance with the guidance provided in BWRVIP-18. For the piping portion of the core spray system, BWRVIP-18 provides two inspection options: visual or ultrasonic. Vermont Yankee intends to follow the ultrasonic flow path of BWRVIP-18 and has contracted General Electric to perform the ultrasonic examination of all accessible core spray piping welds (44 total) using a remotely operated submarine and ultrasonic scanner/manipulator. Vermont Yankee believes that this will provide the most comprehensive examination of this piping. Vermont Yankee will also perform visual inspection of the core spray piping brackets in accordance with BWRVIP-18.

The GE ultrasonic technique will be qualified in accordance with BWRVIP-03 which requires demonstration on BWRVIP mockup samples containing cracks in representative piping configurations.

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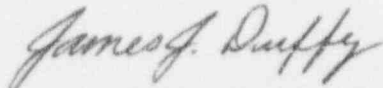
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
September 25, 1996
Page 2 of 2

During this refueling outage, Vermont Yankee will inspect the core spray spargers in accordance with Bulletin 80-13. Pending NRC review and approval of the BWRVIP guidance, Vermont Yankee intends to use this guidance for future sparger inspections. Vermont Yankee will address future inspections of the core spray system internal to the reactor vessel following NRC review of BWRVIP-18.

The ultrasonic inspection of the core spray piping performed during this refueling outage will be the baseline inspection in accordance with BWRVIP-18, figure 3-1. The visual inspection of the core spray sparger performed during this refueling outage will be the baseline inspection in accordance with BWRVIP-18, figure 3-2, pending NRC review and approval of BWRVIP-18.

Sincerely,

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION



James J. Duffy
Licensing Engineer

c: USNRC Region I Administrator
USNRC Project Manager - VYNPS
USNRC Resident Inspector - VYNPS