



50-271

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 2, 1996

Mr. Donald A. Reid
Vice President, Operations
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation
Ferry Road
Brattleboro, VT 05301

SUBJECT: SAFETY EVALUATION REGARDING THE VERMONT YANKEE CORE SHROUD REPAIR
(TAC NO. M95207)

Dear Mr. Reid:

On July 25, 1994, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Generic Letter (GL) 94-03, "Intergranular Stress Corrosion Cracking of Core Shrouds in Boiling Water Reactors," to address the occurrence of core shroud cracking at a number of boiling water reactors (BWRs). The NRC staff requested in GL 94-03 that BWR licensees take a number of actions with respect to their core shrouds. These actions included inspection, and if necessary, repair of the core shroud. In April 1995, the NRC staff reviewed the results of core shroud inspections at Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (VYNPS) and concluded that there was adequate structural margin to allow operation for one additional fuel cycle, to the end of cycle 18. By letter dated April 27, 1995, the NRC staff required that Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation (VYNPC) reinspect and, if necessary, repair the VYNPS core shroud before starting up VYNPS from the next refueling outage at the end of cycle 18 in 1996. Subsequently, VYNPC determined to proceed with a modification of the VYNPS core shroud during the 1996 refueling outage. By letter dated April 15, 1996, VYNPC submitted its plans to permanently repair the core shroud. Additional information requested by the NRC staff was submitted in a letter from VYNPC dated August 7, 1996.

The NRC staff has completed its review of VYNPC's proposed modification to permanently repair the VYNPS core shroud. The NRC staff's Safety Evaluation of this proposal is enclosed and is based on the information contained in the two VYNPC submittals dated April 15 and August 7, 1996. The proposed repair of the core shroud has been designed as an alternative to the requirements of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code pursuant to Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 50.55a(a)(3)(i). This alternative is acceptable.

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Mr. D. Reid

-2-

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VYNPC is requested to submit its plans for the next inspection of the VYNPS core shroud and the tie rod assembly components at least 6 months prior to the inspection. This schedule will allow sufficient time for the NRC staff to evaluate the proposed plan and resolve any comments it may have.

Sincerely,

/s/

C. Craig Harbuck, Acting Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate I-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-271

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

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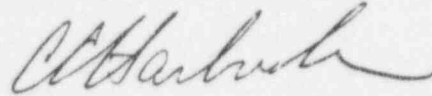
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-2-

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Sincerely,



C. Craig Harbuck, Acting Senior Project Manager
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Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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