



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

REGION I
2100 RENAISSANCE BLVD., SUITE 100
KING OF PRUSSIA, PA 19406-2713

March 4, 2014

Mr. Chris Wamser, Site Vice President
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station
320 Governor Hunt Road
Vernon, VT 05354

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR
POWER STATION (REPORT 05000271/2013001)**

Dear Mr. Wamser:

On February 11, 2014, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed its end-of-cycle performance review of Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from January 1, 2013, through December 31, 2013. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility.

The NRC determined that overall, Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and met all cornerstone objectives. The NRC determined the performance at Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process Action Matrix because all inspection findings had very low (i.e., green) safety significance, and all performance indicators demonstrated that your performance was within the nominal, expected range (i.e, green). Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct Reactor Oversight Process baseline inspections at your facility.

As a result of the Safety Culture Common Language Initiative, the terminology and coding of cross-cutting aspects were revised. All cross-cutting aspects identified during inspections conducted in calendar year (CY) 2014 will reflect this revision to Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 0310. The CY 2013 end-of-cycle assessments were conducted using the IMC 0310 guidance in effect in CY 2013 (dated October 28, 2011). Cross-cutting aspects identified in 2013 using the 2013 terminology will be converted to the latest revision in accordance with the cross-reference in IMC 0310 during the mid-cycle assessment review and evaluated for cross-cutting themes and potential substantive cross-cutting issues in accordance with IMC 0305.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through June 30, 2015. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the enclosed inspection plan. In a letter (ML13273A204)¹ dated September 23, 2013, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.82(a)(1)(i), you notified the NRC of your intent to permanently cease power operations at Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station in the fourth quarter of 2014. Therefore, inspections currently scheduled

¹ The NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession Number for the referenced document. The document is publicly available and retrievable through the ADAMS hyperlink provided at the end of this letter using this number.

beyond 2014 are tentative. Once you formally notify the NRC in accordance with 10 CFR 50.82(a)(1)(ii) that Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station is permanently shutdown and that all nuclear fuel has been removed from the reactor vessel, then Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station will transition from the NRC IMC 0305, "Operating Reactor Assessment Program," and IMC 2515, "Light Water Reactor Inspection Program – Operations Phase," to IMC 2561, "Decommissioning Power Reactor Inspection Program." The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes. This inspection plan does not include security-related inspections, which will be sent via separate, non-publicly available correspondence.

Finally, the Reactor Oversight Process and Inspection Program provides inherent flexibility to permit inspection sampling adjustments to be made in order to better inform our assessment of performance during this unique period of operations prior to permanent plant shutdown. In addition, the NRC will be implementing quarterly assessment reviews, consistent with the guidance contained in IMC 0305, "Operating Reactor Assessment Program," in order to more closely monitor and review overall plant activities to assure that there are no issues emerging that might indicate a decline in focus on the safe operation of the facility.

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 2.390, "Public Inspections, Exemptions, Requests for Withholding," of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Please contact me at (610)337-5150 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Raymond R. McKinley, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 5
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No: 50-271
License No: DPR-28

Enclosure: Inspection Plan

cc w/encl: Distribution via ListServ

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DOCUMENT NAME: S:\ROP-13 EOC Review\Guidance\2012 AAL Template Licensee Response.docx

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: **ML14059A297**

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Letter to Mr. C. Wamser from R. McKinley, dated March 4, 2014

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR
POWER STATION (REPORT 05000271/2013001)

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Vermont Yankee
 Inspection / Activity Plan
 01/01/2014 - 06/30/2015

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
	Start	End			
2/10EXAM - VY INITIAL OL EXAM					2
1	01/13/2014	01/17/2014	U01897	FY14-VERMONT YANKEE INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSING EXAM	
1	02/10/2014	02/14/2014	U01897	FY14-VERMONT YANKEE INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSING EXAM	
CDBI - CDBI					7
1	03/17/2014	03/21/2014	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection	
1	03/31/2014	04/04/2014	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection	
1	04/14/2014	04/18/2014	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection	
71124 - HP					1
1	04/21/2014	04/25/2014	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
711111B - VY REQUAL INSPECTON WITH P/F RESULTS					2
1	06/23/2014	06/27/2014	IP 711111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program	
EP PROG - EP PROGRAM INSPECTION					1
1	07/21/2014	07/25/2014	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing	
1	07/21/2014	07/25/2014	IP 7111403	Emergency Preparedness Organization Staffing and Augmentation System	
1	07/21/2014	07/25/2014	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies	
7111108G - INSERVICE INSPECTION					1
1	10/20/2014	10/24/2014	IP 7111108G	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR	
EXM-3/16 - VY INITIAL LICENSING EXAM					3
1	02/16/2015	02/20/2015	U01909	FY15-VY INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSING EXAM	
1	03/16/2015	03/20/2015	U01909	FY15-VY INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSING EXAM	

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
 This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

Enclosure