DATE: 10/21/11

TO: Uldis Vanags or Elizabeth Miller FAX: 802-828-2342

FROM: Kathleen Kreutzer PHONE: 802-779-1485 FAX: 802-747-3950

Hi Uldis,

as discussed with you after the VSNAP meeting, since YY has been spreading radioactive contaminated waste on site for many years, it is more likely the contaminations not from previous weapon testing as Mr Irwin alleges

Number of pages (including cover sheet) _____

Any help in this matter would be most appreciated

Kathleen Kreutzer

Kathleen Krevetski

STATE OF VERMONT
DEPT OF PUBLIC SERVICE
MONTPELIER, VT.
05620-2601
2011 OCT 21 A 11:49

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 18, 1997
NYY 97-85

RECEIVED
JUN 23 1997
D.A. REID
LAI 1130, 1210, 1193

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

SUBJECT: REVISED SAFETY EVALUATION - APPROVAL PURSUANT TO 10 CFR 20.2002 FOR ONSITE DISPOSAL OF COOLING TOWER SILT - VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION (TAC NO. M96371)

Dear Mr. Reid:

By letter dated August 30, 1995, Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation (VYNPC) requested approval, pursuant to 10 CFR 20.2002, for the onsite disposal of slightly contaminated silt material removed from Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station's (Vermont Yankee's) cooling towers. In a safety evaluation (SE) dated March 4, 1996, the NRC staff approved the proposed silt disposal. However, because of discrepancies VYNPC identified between the safety evaluation and VYNPC's letter of August 30, 1995, VYNPC postponed implementation of the silt disposal until resolution of the discrepancies. By letter dated August 2, 1996, VYNPC informed the NRC staff of the discrepancies and requested that the SE be revised accordingly. Recognizing the discrepancies, the NRC staff has prepared the enclosed SE to resolve the discrepancies and to replace the SE of March 4, 1996.

LAI 1130 The NRC staff's approval of VYNPC's silt disposal request is granted provided the enclosed replacement SE is permanently incorporated into Vermont Yankee's Offsite Dose Calculation Manual as an appendix. Any modification to the proposed action that may be considered in the future must have prior NRC staff approval

Pursuant to the provisions of 10 CFR Part 51, the Commission has published in the Federal Register an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (61 FR 6662).

Revision 21 Date 08/14/97

If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Kahtan Jabbour at (301) 415-1496.

Sincerely,

Patrick D. Milano, Acting Director
Project Directorate I-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-271

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

Revision 21 Date 08/14/97

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATED TO ONSITE DISPOSAL OF SLIGHTLY CONTAMINATED COOLING TOWER SILT

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION

DOCKET NO. 50-271

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated August 30, 1995, Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation (VYNPC) requested approval for the onsite disposal of slightly contaminated silt material removed from Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station's (Vermont Yankee's) cooling towers. In a safety evaluation (SE) dated March 4, 1996, the NRC staff approved the proposed silt disposal. However, because of discrepancies between the SE and VYNPC's letter of August 30, 1995, VYNPC postponed implementation of the silt disposal until resolution of the discrepancies. By letter dated August 2, 1996, VYNPC informed the NRC staff of the discrepancies and requested that the SE be revised accordingly. Recognizing the discrepancies, the NRC staff has prepared this SE to resolve the discrepancies and to replace the SE of March 4, 1996.

2.0 BACKGROUND

VYNPC has previously obtained NRC staff approval of the onsite disposal of very-low-level radioactive material similar to the proposed silt disposal. By letter dated June 28, 1989, VYNPC proposed the onsite disposal of slightly contaminated septic waste material by land application at Vermont Yankee. By letter dated August 30, 1989, the NRC staff approved this request pursuant to 10 CFR 20.302 (now 10 CFR 20.2002). The NRC staff considered this site-specific application for Vermont Yankee to have insignificant radiological impact because the proposed septic waste material disposal involved licensed material containing less than 0.1 percent of the radioactive material, primarily cobalt-60 and cesium-137, already considered acceptable in the Final Environmental Statement (FES) of July 1972, and involved exposure pathways much less significant than those in the FES. In addition, the proposed septic waste material disposal satisfied the following applicable boundary conditions for the disposal of licensed material:

a. The whole body dose to the hypothetical maximally exposed individual must be less than 1.0 mrem/year.

b. Doses to the whole body and any organ of an inadvertent intruder from the probable pathways of exposure are less than 5 mrem/year.

c. The disposal must be at the same site.

Following the NRC staff's approval on August 30, 1989, VYNPC implemented the disposal of the contaminated septic waste material as proposed.

By letter dated August 30, 1995, VYNPC requested that the previous authorization for the onsite disposal of very-low-level radioactive material be amended to permit the onsite disposal of slightly contaminated silt material, within the boundary conditions of the previously approved septic waste material disposal.

3.0 EVALUATION

In its letter of August 30, 1995, VYNPC stated that the proposed silt disposal method is the same as the previously approved septic waste disposal method, and utilizes land spreading in the same onsite areas approved for septic waste disposal. The volume of silt proposed for onsite disposal consists of 14,000 cubic feet (396 cubic meters) accumulated through August 1995 plus approximately 4,000 cubic feet (113 cubic meters) to be removed from the cooling towers during each 18-month operating cycle. The activity contained in the currently accumulated silt, based on samples taken by VYNPC in June 1995, is 0.193 millicuries, principally from 0.034 millicuries of cobalt-60 and 0.159 millicuries of cesium-137. The activity contained in the additional silt to be removed from the cooling towers each 18-month operating cycle is anticipated to be 0.059 millicuries, principally from 0.012 millicuries of cobalt-60 and 0.047 millicuries of cesium-137.

VYNPC's radiological assessment enclosed with its August 30, 1995, letter demonstrates that the combined radiological impact for all onsite disposal operations, the proposed disposal of silt and the previously approved disposal of septic waste material, will continue to meet the applicable boundary conditions (given above) for the disposal of licensed material. Therefore, the proposed onsite disposal of slightly contaminated silt is acceptable.

As discussed in VYNPC's letter of August 2, 1996, if the onsite disposal of cooling tower silt or septic waste material would result in exceeding the applicable boundary conditions (given above), then VYNPC must obtain prior NRC staff approval of the disposal. In addition, VYNPC made the following commitments:

LAI 1193 1130

a. VYNPC will report in the Annual Radiological Effluent Release Report a list of the radionuclides present and the total radioactivity associated with the onsite disposal activities at Vermont Yankee.

2999

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

Assessment of Routine Disposal of Cooling Tower Silt in Areas On-Site Previously Designated for Septic Waste Disposal

1.0 INTRODUCTION:

Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation (Vermont Yankee) requested from the NRC in 1989 permission to routinely dispose of slightly contaminated septic waste in designated on-site areas in accordance with 10CFR20.302(a). The NRC responded to this request on August 30, 1989 by granting approval of the proposed procedures for on-site disposal of septic waste concluding that the commitments, as documented in our request, were acceptable provided that our request and analysis be permanently incorporated into the plant's Offsite Dose Calculation Manual (ODCM). Revision 9 to the ODCM (Appendix B) incorporated the assessment and approval of the methods utilized for on-site disposal of slightly contaminated sewage sludge.

In addition to the previously identified solids content of septic waste as a source of environmental, low level radioactive contaminated material, cooling tower silt deposits resulting from the settling of solids from river water passing through the mechanical draft cooling tower system have been identified to also contain low levels of plant-specific radionuclides. Periodic removal of the silt from the cooling tower basins is a necessary maintenance practice to insure operability of the cooling system. However, due to the presence of by-product materials in the silt, proper disposal requirements must be applied to insure that the potential radiological impact is within acceptable limits.

This assessment of silt disposal expands the original septic waste disposal assessment to include earthen type materials (cooling tower silt deposits) while maintaining the original radiological assessment modeling and dose limit criteria that have been approved for septic waste spreading on site. This assessment demonstrates that cooling tower silt can be disposed of in the same manner and under the same dose limit criteria as previously approved for septic waste in Appendix B to the Vermont Yankee ODCM. Implementation of the following commitments as an amendment to the original 10 CFR

Part 20.302(a) approval for septic waste shall be incorporated into the Vermont Yankee ODCM upon approval by the NRC.

2.0 WASTE STREAM DESCRIPTION:

The waste involved in this assessment is residual solids (silt) collected in the basins of the plant's mechanical draft cooling tower system. The silt consists of organic and inorganic sediments and earthen type materials that have settled from the cooling water flow taken from the Connecticut River as it passes through the towers. As a result of de-sludging the tower basins in 1993, an estimated 14,000 cubic feet of silt was accumulated on site. Clean-out operations will also occur periodically to ensure continued system operability. Sample analysis performed to the plant's environmental lower limits of detection requirements, as contained in Technical Specification Table 4.9.3., has identified Cobalt-60 and Cesium-137 in low concentrations as being present in silt collected in 1993.

The cooling towers are located at the southern end of the plant facility complex but are not directly connected to any system in the plant that contains radioactivity. The postulated mechanism of how plant-related radionuclides have been introduced into the cooling system silt assumes that past routine effluents discharged from nearby plant gaseous release points were entrained in the large mechanically-induced air flow that is pulled through the towers as a heat exchange medium. The cooling water flow provides a scrubbing action as it is breaks up into fine water droplets due to the splash pans of the towers. This scrubbing action washes any airborne particulates out of the air. Over long periods of operation, any radioactivity removed from the air flow could buildup to measurable levels in silt that settles out in the basins at the bottom of the towers.

Table 1 lists the analyses of twenty-one samples collected from the silt pile removed from the cooling tower basins. Radioactivity measurements, averaged over all the samples, indicate that the silt material can be characterized as containing approximately 50 pCi/kg (dry wt.) of Cobalt-60 and 198 pCi/kg (dry wt.) of Cesium-137. Eight of the samples indicated no positive Cobalt-60 above a minimum detectable level achieved for the analysis.

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION

Ferry Road, Brattleboro, VT 05301-7002

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

June 28, 1989
BVY 89-59

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Attention: Document Control Desk

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

Subject: Request to Routinely Dispose of Slightly Contaminated Septic Waste in Accordance with 10 CFR 20.302(a)

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the criteria of the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 10, Section 20.302(a) (10CFR20.302(a)), enclosed please find the subject application for the disposal of very low level radioactive waste materials. Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation (Vermont Yankee) hereby requests NRC approval of the proposed procedures for the disposal of slightly contaminated septic waste generated at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant in Vernon, Vermont.

This application specifically requests approval to dispose of septic tank waste, contaminated at minimal levels, which have been or might be generated through the end of station operations at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant. The proposed method of disposal is for the on-site land spreading in designated areas in compliance with State of Vermont health code requirements for septic waste. Disposal of this waste in the manner proposed, rather than at a 10 CFR Part 61 licensed facility would save Vermont Yankee not only substantial cost, but also valuable disposal site space which would then be available for wastes of higher radioactivity levels. Disposal as radioactive waste would require treatment of the biological aspects of the septage and solidification to a stable waste form, thereby increasing the volume substantially.

A radiological assessment and proposed operational controls, based upon the continued on-site disposal of septic waste as presently contained in the plant's septic tanks, are detailed in Attachments 1 and 2. Based upon this analysis, Vermont Yankee requests approval to dispose of septic tank waste on-site by and spreading in such a manner that the radioactivity concentration limit in any batch of septage to be spread does not exceed one-tenth of the MPC values listed in 10 CFR 20, Appendix B, Table II; and the combined radiological impact for all disposal operations shall be limited to a total body or organ dose of a maximally exposed member of the public of less than one mrem/year (less than 5 mrem/year to an inadvertent intruder).

Revision 9 Date 3/2/90

Due to our expected need to utilize the proposed methodology of land application of septic waste on-site during the spring of 1990, we request your review and approval of this proposed disposal method by the end of the first quarter of 1990.

We trust that the information contained in the submittal is sufficient; however, should you have any questions or require further information concerning this matter, please contact this office

Very truly yours,

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION

Robert W. Capstick, Jr.
Licensing Engineer

MSS/emd

Enclosures

cc: USNRC Region I
USNRC Resident Inspector, VTNPS

Revision 9 Date 3/2/90

Pgc 264

Since the disposal proposed by the licensee involves licensed material containing less than 0.1 percent of the radioactive materials, primarily cobalt-60 and cesium-137, already considered acceptable in the FES, and involves exposure pathways much less significant than those considered in the FES, we consider the site-specific application (Reference (a)) for Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station to have insignificant radiological impact. We accept the commitments and evaluations of the licensee, documented in reference (a), as further assurance that the proposed disposal procedures will have a negligible effect on the environment and the general population in comparison to normal background radiation.'

LA1 855 In conclusion, we find the licensee's procedures with commitments as documented in reference (a) to be acceptable, provided that reference (a) is permanently incorporated into the licensee's Offsite Dose Calculation Manual (ODCM) as an Appendix, and future modifications of reference (a) be reported to NRC in accordance with licensee commitments regarding ODCM changes.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9), no environmental assessment is required. This completes our review under TAC No.73776.

Sincerely,

Morton B. Fairtile

Morton B. Fairtile, Project Manager
Project Directorate I-3 Division of
Reactor Projects I/II Office of
Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

Revision 9 Date 3/2/90