

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 10/05/01 EDO CONTROL: G20010407
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FINAL REPLY:

Governor Howard Dean
State of Vermont

TO:

Chairman Meserve

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** PRI ** CRC NO: 01-0482

Chairman Meserve

DESC:

ROUTING:

Review and Measurement of Security at Vermont
Yankee Nuclear Power Plant

Travers
Paperiello
Kane
Norry
Craig
Burns/Cyr
Wessman, IRO
Collins, NRR

DATE: 09/26/01

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:
RI Miller

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

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ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: GOV Howard Dean
AFFILIATION: VT-GOV
ADDRESSEE: CHRM Ricahrd Meserve
SUBJECT: Concerns review and measurement of security at Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant

ACTION: Signature of Chairman
DISTRIBUTION: RF

LETTER DATE: 09/20/2001
ACKNOWLEDGED: No
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EDO --G20010407



HOWARD DEAN, M.D.
Governor

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September 20, 2001

Honorable Richard A. Meerve, Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-001

Dear Chairman Meerve:

The tragedy of September 11 calls for review and reassessment of security at Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant. I am aware that in 1998 and again in February 2001 Vermont Yankee received violations as a result of your agency's testing of this plant's security readiness. I am also aware of the NRC's policy of allowing licenses to grant personnel unescorted access to the plant before completion of full security background checks. This policy resulted in granting access to a person who otherwise may not have been allowed at Vermont Yankee.

I have been informed that each of these deficiencies has been corrected. Nevertheless, considering last week's terrorist action, I would like the confidence that an overall review of Vermont Yankee security and security culture has been undertaken.

In light of the events of last week, I would like to understand the security issues at Vermont Yankee, including its operation and spent nuclear fuel storage. If there are cases of specific vulnerability, I would like to know the agency's plan for requiring this vulnerability to be reduced.

I would also stress that last week's terrorist action makes it imperative that the federal government live up to its commitment to store spent fuel at a national facility.

I am aware of the Safeguards Information category of confidentiality and will work with you in any manner necessary to receive the information needed to assure the safety of Vermont citizens and property. It is important to have answers to these questions expeditiously.

Sincerely,

Howard Dean, M.D.
Governor

CC: Ross Burkhardt, President, Vermont Yankee
Vermont Terrorism Task Force
U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy
U.S. Sen. James Jeffords
U.S. Rep. Bernard Sanders