

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 04/15/04

EDO CONTROL: G20040213
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FINAL REPLY:

Linda and Robert (Zeke) Hecker
Guilford, Vermont

TO:

Chairman Diaz

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** GRN **

CRC NO: 04-0173

Dyer, NRR

DESC:

ROUTING:

Independent Safety Assessment for Vermont Yankee

Travers
Norry
Paperiello
Kane
Collins
Dean
Burns/Cyr
Miller, RI

DATE: 03/25/04

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NRR

Dyer

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Ref. G20040206, G20040203, G20040176, G20040171.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Mar 25, 2004 11:24

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-04-0173 **LOGGING DATE:** 03/24/2004
ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: Linda Hecker
AFFILIATION: VT
ADDRESSEE:
SUBJECT: Requests Independent Safety Assessment for Vermont Yankee

ACTION: Direct Reply
DISTRIBUTION: Cy RF. SECY to Ack.

LETTER DATE: 03/03/2004
ACKNOWLEDGED: No
SPECIAL HANDLING: ADAMS for Immediate Release via SECY/EDO/DPC

NOTES:
FILE LOCATION: ADAMS
DATE DUE: 04/15/2004 **DATE SIGNED:**

EDO --G20040213

2450 Packer Corners Road
Guilford, VT 05301

March 3, 2004

Nils Diaz, Chair
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20005-0001

Dear Chairman Diaz:

As Vermont citizen and Guilford residents who lives in the evacuation zone of the Entergy's Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power plant in Vernon, I urge you to request an Independent Safety Assessment of this aging nuclear plant, especially in light of Entergy's request for a 20% power uprate. As I am sure you know, Vermont Yankee is the oldest nuclear power plant still operating in New England and that by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's own admission, does not meet current design and safety criteria that are today's industry standards. Entergy's request for such a large power uprate is essentially an experiment carried out on the citizens of Southern Vermont because it represents the maximum so far permitted on the older Boiling Water Reactor type of nuclear plant. Of the 8 plants that have had large uprates in recent years, 5 have experienced significant accidents or incidents. Experts in the field of nuclear engineering have questioned Vermont Yankee's ability to operate safely under the enhanced power uprate and for the safety systems to perform independently. Furthermore, we know this plant is considered to be a vulnerable target for terrorist attack. Vermont Yankee is training its SWAT team with machine guns at a rifle range less than .25 miles from our home and we have been told by team members that they are also using surface to air missiles in their training. To us, our family, and our neighbors this represents an unacceptable level of risk for extremely negligible benefits.

Public hearings aren't enough. Only an Independent Safety Assessment offers us a reasonable chance that all the safety factors will be considered fairly and without political bias.

Sincerely,


Linda and Robert (Zeke) Hecker

cc. Governor James Douglas

Representative Bernard Sanders
Senator James Jefford
Senator Patrick Leahy