

May 21, 2004

Mr. Michael Kansler
President
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
440 Hamilton Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601

Dear Mr. Kansler:

As you are aware, on April 23, 2004, the New England Coalition submitted a 10 CFR 2.206 petition to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (Vermont Yankee). The New England Coalition petition requested "that until such time as the licensee has rendered an accurate and NRC-verified account of the location, disposition, and condition of all irradiated fuel, including fuel currently loaded in the reactor core, the NRC order a halt to all fuel movement at Vermont Yankee." By conference call on May 5, 2004, the NRC Petition Review Board (PRB) spoke with Raymond Shadis who is representing the New England Coalition. Entergy personnel participated in the conference call. The PRB explained that the fuel movement had been completed for the spring 2004 outage and offered Mr. Shadis an opportunity to clarify or modify the request. Mr. Shadis reaffirmed the petition request to stop all fuel movement, but he understood that at the present time the request would be limited to the spent fuel pool. He still wanted a 100-percent verification of the inventory of all the special nuclear material in the spent fuel pool. He stated that this request to halt fuel movement does not apply to fuel in the spent fuel pool if it is related to the inventory inspection.

The NRC is conducting a special inspection with regard to potentially-missing spent fuel segments at Vermont Yankee. Entergy has informed the NRC of its plan to perform a comprehensive search of the spent fuel pool, conduct a core load verification, verify the location of the remaining damaged spent fuel rod sections stored in the bundles, and perform a records review in an effort to determine the location of the missing segments. As discussed with Mr. James DeVincentis of your staff on May 11, 2004, we request Entergy to:

- (1) document the verification of the inventory of all special nuclear material in the spent fuel pool;
- (2) document all other actions you are performing to locate the missing fuel;
- (3) document that the location of the remaining portions of the two spent fuel rod segments have been verified;
- (4) provide the results of your actions to locate the missing fuel when the current efforts are completed; and
- (5) provide a schedule for these actions by June 8, 2004.

The petition process affords the opportunity for the licensee to provide a response to the petition. Therefore, the staff is requesting that you provide a response to this petition. Since,

M. Kansler

-2-

this response will be made publicly available you should avoid using proprietary or personal privacy information that requires protection from public disclosure.

We have enclosed the petition for your information. If you have any questions, please call Alan Wang of my staff at (301) 415-1445.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Eric Leeds, Deputy Director
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

M. Kansler

-2-

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Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station

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Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station

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