

June 4, 2004

The Honorable Charles F. Bass
Member, United States
House of Representatives
One West Street
Suite 208
Keene, NH 03431

Dear Congressman Bass:

I am responding on behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to your letter dated May 3, 2004, in which you forwarded a copy of a letter from one of your constituents, Mr. Charles Nobles. In his letter, Mr. Nobles expressed concern regarding a request by Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., to increase the generating capacity of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (Vermont Yankee) by 20 percent, and asked that your office support the request for a comprehensive independent safety inspection of the facility.

The NRC sent a letter to the Vermont Public Service Board on May 4, 2004, in response to their request for an independent engineering assessment. I am enclosing a copy of that letter, which describes our plans to use an improved engineering inspection at Vermont Yankee. The NRC staff has concluded that its detailed technical review, combined with its inspections prescribed by the reactor oversight process, as enhanced by a new engineering inspection, is the most effective method of determining whether Vermont Yankee can safely operate under uprated power conditions. We believe this approach is responsive to the Public Service Board's request, and therefore is also responsive to Mr. Noble's request.

For current information on the NRC's review of the proposed power uprate, please see the Vermont Yankee web page at the NRC's website at:
www.nrc.gov/reactors/plant-specific-items/vermont-yankee-issues.html

Sincerely,

/RA/

Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director
for Operations

Enclosure: Letter to the Vermont Public Service Board

The Honorable Charles F. Bass
Member, United States
House of Representatives
One West Street
Suite 208
Keene, NH 03431

June 4, 2004

Dear Congressman Bass:

I am responding on behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to your letter dated May 3, 2004, in which you forwarded a copy of a letter from one of your constituents, Mr. Charles Nobles. In his letter, Mr. Nobles expressed concern regarding a request by Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., to increase the generating capacity of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (Vermont Yankee) by 20 percent, and asked that your office support the request for a comprehensive independent safety inspection of the facility.

The NRC sent a letter to the Vermont Public Service Board on May 4, 2004, in response to their request for an independent engineering assessment. I am enclosing a copy of that letter, which describes our plans to use an improved engineering inspection at Vermont Yankee. The NRC staff has concluded that its detailed technical review, combined with its inspections prescribed by the reactor oversight process, as enhanced by a new engineering inspection, is the most effective method of determining whether Vermont Yankee can safely operate under uprated power conditions. We believe this approach is responsive to the Public Service Board's request, and therefore is also responsive to Mr. Noble's request.

For current information on the NRC's review of the proposed power uprate, please see the Vermont Yankee web page at the NRC's website at:
www.nrc.gov/reactors/plant-specific-items/vermont-yankee-issues.html

Sincerely,
/RA/

Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director
for Operations

Enclosure: Letter to the Vermont Public Service Board

DISTRIBUTION: G20040326/LTR-04-0294

PUBLIC	RidsEdoMailCenter	SBurns/KCyr, OGC	RidsOcaMailCenter
LReyes	RidsNrrWpcMail	SECY#04-0294	DRathburn, OCA
SCollins	RidsNrrAdptKJohnson	RidsNrrPMREnnis	HMiller, Rgn 1
WKane	HMiller, Rgn I	CBixler, Rgn I	
CPaperiello	AHowe	NRR Mail Room	
PNorry	RidsNrrDlpmLpdICHolden	RidsOgcRp	
WDean	RidsNrrPMBPham	RidsOpaMail	
RidsNrrOdJDyer	RidsNrrLACRaynor	RidsRgnIMailCenter	
RidsNrrAdptBSheron	PDI-2 Section Reading File	RidsNrrPMAMcMurtray	

Package No.: ML041460414

Incoming No.: ML041280404

Response No.: ML041460350

Enclosure No.: ML041170438

OFFICE	PDIV-2/PM	PDI-2/LA	PDI-1/PM	VY/SC	PDI/PD
NAME	BPham	CRaynor	DSkay	AHowe	CHolden (AHowe for)
DATE	5/25/04	5/25/04	5/25/04	5/25/04	5/25/04
OFFICE	DLPM/D	ADPT/NRR	NRR/D	EDO	OCA
NAME	TMarsh	BSheron	JDyer	LReyes	DRathburn

DATE	05/25/04	05/27/04	05/28/04	6/ 04/04	6/ 04/04
------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY