May 27, 2004

Board of Selectmen
Town of Gill
325 Main Road
Gill, MA 01376

Dear Members of the Board:

I am responding on behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to your letter dated March 31, 2004, in which you requested that the NRC conduct an independent safety assessment of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (Vermont Yankee) prior to licensing a 20-percent power uprate.

The NRC sent a letter to the Vermont Public Service Board on May 4, 2004, in response to a similar request for an independent engineering assessment. To address your concern for the town of Gill, 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 the detailed technical review, combined with inspections prescribed by the reactor oversight process, as enhanced by a new engineering inspection, is the most effective method of determining whether Vermont Yankee could safely operate under uprated power conditions.

The NRC values your comments on this issue. I believe the enclosed information, which describes our review and inspection procedure, along with our plans for a new engineering inspection process, will assist in addressing your concerns regarding the safety of Vermont Yankee. Additional information about the on-going review process is also available on our NRC website at: www.nrc.gov/reactors/plant-specific-items/vermont-yankee-issues.html

Sincerely,

/RA/

Cornelius F. Holden, Director
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: Letter to the Vermont Public Service Board

May 24, 2004

Board of Selectmen
Town of Gill
325 Main Road
Gill, MA 01376

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/RA/
Cornelius F. Holden, Director
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: Letter to the Vermont Public Service Board

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