May 27, 2004

Mr. Paul Normandeau, Chairman
The Dummerston Selectboard
1523 Middle Road
East Dummerston, VT 05346

Dear Mr. Normandeau:

I am responding to your letter of March 31, 2004, to the Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). In your letter you stated that the Dummerston Selectboard was in agreement with Vermont State Senate Resolution S.R. 21, urging that the NRC condition approval of any power uprate at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (Vermont Yankee) upon performance of an independent engineering assessment as called for the in the Public Service Board ruling.

In our response to the Vermont Public Service Board, we have taken a closer look at our proposed inspections and technical reviews to assure ourselves that they will identify any potential concerns for operating at uprated power conditions. The NRC has decided to conduct a detailed engineering inspection that we believe will be appropriate for addressing our oversight responsibilities and is also responsive to the Public Service Board's concerns. We have concluded that the detailed technical review, coupled with our program of power uprate and engineering inspections, will provide the information necessary for the NRC staff to make a decision on the safety of operation of Vermont Yankee under uprated power conditions.

The Vermont State Senate provided Resolution S.R. 21 to the NRC by letter dated March 17, 2004. The Senate Resolution identifies five specific actions that the Senate requested be included in an independent engineering assessment. The NRC has carefully considered the request and has concluded that the specific actions requested by the Senate are already satisfied in one way or another through current or planned NRC processes. The NRC responded to the Vermont State Senate by letter dated May 24, 2004. A copy of this letter is attached for your information.

Thank you for your interest in NRC activities. For current information on the NRC's review of the proposed power uprate, please see the Vermont Yankee webpage on the NRC's website at http://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 State Senate

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/RA/
Cornelius F. Holden, Director
Project Directorate I
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Enclosure: Letter to the Vermont State Senate

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