

May 28, 2004

Mr. Michael Moynihan
P.O. Box 129
Waterbury Center, VT 05677

Dear Mr. Moynihan:

I am responding on behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to your letter dated March 24, 2004, regarding the request by Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. to amend Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station's (Vermont Yankee) license to increase power. In your letter you were particularly concerned about the age and condition of the Vermont Yankee facility, and you requested that the NRC conduct an independent safety assessment of Vermont Yankee before any such uprate is even considered.

I have enclosed a copy of the letter that we sent to the Vermont Public Service Board regarding its request for an independent engineering assessment. In our response, the NRC has 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. We have concluded that the detailed technical review, combined with the inspections prescribed by the reactor oversight process, as enhanced by a pilot engineering inspection, is the most effective method of informing our decision on whether Vermont Yankee could safely operate under uprated power conditions.

Thank you for your interest in the 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 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 28, 2004

Mr. Michael Moynihan
P.O. Box 129
Waterbury Center, VT 05677

Dear Mr. Moynihan:

I am responding on behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to your letter dated March 24, 2004, regarding the request by Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. to amend Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station's (Vermont Yankee) license to increase power. In your letter you were particularly concerned about the age and condition of the Vermont Yankee facility, and you requested that the NRC conduct an independent safety assessment of Vermont Yankee before any such uprate is even considered.

I have enclosed a copy of the letter that we sent to the Vermont Public Service Board regarding its request for an independent engineering assessment. In our response, the NRC has 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. We have concluded that the detailed technical review, combined with the inspections prescribed by the reactor oversight process, as enhanced by a pilot engineering inspection, is the most effective method of informing our decision on whether Vermont Yankee could safely operate under uprated power conditions.

Thank you for your interest in the 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 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

DISTRIBUTION:

PUBLIC	RidsEdoMailCenter	SBurns/KCyr, OGC	RidsOcaMailCenter
LReyes	RidsNrrWpcMail	SECY (LTR-04-0194)	
SCollins	RidsNrrAdptKJohnson	RidsNrrPMREnnis	
WKane	HMiller, Rgn I	CBixler, Rgn I	
CPaperiello	AHowe	NRR Mail Room (G20040238)	
PNorry	RidsNrrDlpmLpdIHolden	RidsOgcRp	
WDean	RidsNrrPMBPham	RidsOpaMail	
RidsNrrOdJDyer	RidsNrrLACRaynor	RidsRgnIMailCenter	
RidsNrrAdptBSheron	PDI-2 R/F	RidsNrrPMAMcMurtray	

Package No.: ML041470327

Incoming No.: ML040960327

Response No.: ML041470308

Enclosure: ML041170438

OFFICE	PDIV-2/PM	PDI-2/LA	PDI-1/PM	VY/SC	PDI/PD
NAME	GTaylor/BPham	CRaynor	DSkay	AHowe	CHolden
DATE	5/22/04	5/28/04	5/28/04	5/27/04	5/27/04