

May 28, 2004

Board of Selectmen
Town of Montague
1 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Dear Members of the Board:

I am responding on behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to your letter dated March 29, 2004, in which you requested the NRC conduct an independent safety assessment of Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (Vermont Yankee) prior to the proposed 20 percent power uprate.

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. To address the town of Montague's concern, 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.

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 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

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