

June 30, 2004

Mr. Michael E. J. Blastos, Mayor  
City of Keene  
3 Washington Street  
Keene, NH 03431

Dear Mayor Blastos:

At a meeting between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and members of the public in Vernon, Vermont on March 31, 2004, you provided to the NRC staff a copy of a letter which you sent to the Vermont Public Service Board. On behalf of the NRC, I am responding to the concerns you cited in that letter regarding the request by Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee, LLC, and Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (Entergy), to amend the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (Vermont Yankee) license to increase the power level of the facility. In your letter, you requested that an independent safety assessment be undertaken before an uprate for the Vermont Yankee facility is considered.

On May 4, 2004, the NRC sent a letter to the Vermont Public Service Board regarding its request for an independent engineering assessment at Vermont Yankee. I enclose a copy of that letter for your information. 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 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 Public Service Board

June 30, 2004

Mr. Michael E. J. Blastos, Mayor  
City of Keene  
3 Washington Street  
Keene, NH 03431

Dear Mayor Blastos:

At a meeting between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and members of the public in Vernon, Vermont on March 31, 2004, you provided to the NRC staff a copy of a letter which you sent to the Vermont Public Service Board. On behalf of the NRC, I am responding to the concerns you cited in that letter regarding the request by Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee, LLC, and Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (Entergy), to amend the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (Vermont Yankee) license to increase the power level of the facility. In your letter, you requested that an independent safety assessment be undertaken before an uprate for the Vermont Yankee facility is considered.

On May 4, 2004, the NRC sent a letter to the Vermont Public Service Board regarding its request for an independent engineering assessment at Vermont Yankee. I enclose a copy of that letter for your information. 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 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 Public Service Board

DISTRIBUTION

See next page

ADAMS Accession Numbers:

Incoming: ML041560253

Response: ML041740636

Enclosure: ML041170438

Package: ML041770472

OFFICE	PDI-1:PM	PDI-2:LA	VY:SC	PDI:PD
NAME	LLicata for DSkay	CRaynor	REnnis for AHowe	CHolden
DATE	6/28/04	6/28/04	6/28/04	6/29/04

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

DISTRIBUTION FOR YT20040124 RESPONSE TO THE MAYOR OF KEENE

DATED: June 30, 2004

DISTRIBUTION:

PUBLIC

JDyer

BSheron

WBorchardt

MCase

NRR Mailroom (YT20040124)

LCox

CHolden

REnnis

CRaynor

PDI-2 Reading

CBixler, Rgn-1

CAnderson, Rgn-I

AHowe

DSkay

TMcMurtray