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**From:**

James Matteau

**TACs:**

MC3835

**To:**

William Ruland

\*\*\* YELLOW \*\*\*

**For Signature of:**

**Routing:**

Dyer  
Borchardt  
Sheron  
Case  
NRR Mailroom

**Description:**

Vermont Yankee Extended Power Upgrades; Temporary Instruction 2515/158

**Assigned To:**

DLPM

**Contact:**

MARSH, LEDYARD (TAD) E

**Special Instructions:**



July 5, 2004

William Ruland, Project Director, NRR  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C., 20555

Re: Vermont Yankee Extended Power Uprate; Temporary Instruction 2515/158

Dear Mr. Ruland:

I want to express my appreciation for the time and effort invested by you and your group, and for the exchange of views and information that the June 28 hearing provided. It was helpful to me and I believe will contribute to a better process.

I also want to take an opportunity to restate a request that I made at the hearing. That is, that the risk-significant components and human actions to be reviewed be made known to the public when they are selected and prior to the review taking place. I understand and appreciate Mr. Richards' explanation that the process is fluid and that changes and additions could be made as it unfolded; perhaps they are even likely to be. The fact that the Temporary Instruction is process driven and not a predetermined list makes it a stronger, more reliable process, in my opinion.

But I believe strongly that public opinion suffers from uninformed assumptions and innuendo regarding actual circumstances and conditions in this matter, and the general public is understandably worried and concerned when basic information is unnecessarily shrouded. In this case, I suggest that proceeding without informing the public about specifically what components and actions are under review would only fuel speculation during the review and harm the credibility of your results afterward. I also believe, as I stated at the hearing, that the NRC can make that information known to the public at an early but appropriate time while clearly emphasizing the fluidity of the process and underscoring the Commission's responsibility to make changes as needed and appropriate. I believe the general public can and will accept a lot if people are well-informed, but they will be hesitant to accept much if they feel inappropriately kept in the dark.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



James P. Matteau  
Executive Director

Cc: Windham regional Commissioners  
Vermont Public Service Board  
PSB Docket 6812 Parties  
Senator Patrick Leahy  
Senator James Jeffords  
Representative Bernard Sanders

**PSB Docket No. 6812 – Service List**

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