

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 08/19/04

EDO CONTROL: G20040541

DOC DT: 08/06/04

FINAL REPLY:

Governor James H. Douglas

TO:

Chairman Diaz

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** PRI **

CRC NO: 04-0505

Chairman Diaz

DESC:

Inspection at Vermont Yankee and Request for
Public Briefings

ROUTING:

Reyes
Virgilio
Kane
Merschhoff
Norry
Dean
Burns/Cyr
Miller, RI

DATE: 08/09/04

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NRR

Dyer

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Template: SECY-017

E-RIDS: SECY-01

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET**

Date Printed: Aug 06, 2004 15:35

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-04-0505 **LOGGING DATE:** 08/06/2004
ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: GOV Gov. James Douglas
AFFILIATION: VT-GOV
ADDRESSEE: Nils Diaz
SUBJECT: Concerns upcoming engineering inspection at Vermont Yankee power station

ACTION: Signature of Chairman
DISTRIBUTION: RF, SECY to Ack

LETTER DATE: 08/06/2004

ACKNOWLEDGED No

SPECIAL HANDLING:

NOTES: Commission Correspondence

FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE: ⁸³08/20/2004 **DATE SIGNED:**

JAMES H. DOUGLAS
GOVERNOR



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

August 6, 2004

Mr. Nils J. Diaz, Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C., 20555

RE: Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station
License No. DPR-28 (Docket No. 50-271)
Technical Specification Proposed Change No. 263
Extended Power Uprate
Temporary Instruction 2515/158

Dear Chairman Diaz:

As the Independent Engineering Assessment inspection team prepares to begin its work next week at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station, I would like to make several requests that I feel are important to ensure the integrity of the process and public confidence in the outcome.

First, we are pleased that three independent contractors will be assigned to this team. I request that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) certify to Vermont's Public Service Commissioner that each of these independent contractors meets the strict objectivity standards required and has no conflict of interest. Second, I request that the NRC make all members of the Independent Engineering Assessment team available for regular briefings with the Vermont State Nuclear Advisory Panel during, and at the completion of, the inspection. Third, I would like NRC to be available for briefings with both the Commissioners of Public Safety and Public Service on an as needed basis to be determined by the State.

Considering the importance of the inspection findings to the safety and security of Vermont's residents, as well as to the future operation of the facility, I also urge the NRC to extend its hearing request period a reasonable time beyond the completion of the special engineering investigation. Such an extension would allow interested parties and the State of Vermont the opportunity to have the findings available before the deadline to request a formal hearing.

I know you appreciate the significance of this engineering inspection to the State of Vermont and its residents and I want to thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James H. Douglas".

James H. Douglas
Governor

JHD/tbb