

**From:** Rosetta Virgilio *STP*  
**To:** Dean, William  
**Date:** 5/5/04 5:13PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: FW: Douglas: NRC to Conduct Enhanced Independent Assessment--Plan Goes Further than PSB Request and is Addition to Existing Uprate Review

Bill -

Note attached Statement from Governor Douglas, which I believe the Commission would be interested in seeing.

Rosetta

**CC:** Anderson, Cliff; Ennis, Rick; Hayden, Elizabeth; Howe, Allen; Lohaus, Paul; Pelton, David; Piccone, Josephine; Schoenfeld, Isabelle; Skay, Donna

*E-37*

**From:** "Sherman, William" <William.Sherman@state.vt.us>  
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**Date:** 5/5/04 2:33PM  
**Subject:** FW: Douglas: NRC to Conduct Enhanced Independent Assessment--Plan Goes Further than PSB Request and is Addition to Existing Uprate Review

> JAMES H. DOUGLAS  
> GOVERNOR  
> <<...OLE\_Obj...>>  
>  
> State of Vermont  
> OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
> For Immediate Release:  
> Wednesday, May 05, 2004  
>  
> Contact: Jason Gibbs  
> (802) 828-3333  
>  
> Douglas: NRC to Conduct Enhanced Independent Assessment  
>  
> Plan Goes Further than PSB Request and is Addition to Existing Uprate  
> Review  
>  
> Montpelier, Vt.--Governor Jim Douglas today said his administration's  
> efforts to urge the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to conduct a  
> comprehensive Independent Engineering Assessment of the Vermont Yankee  
> nuclear power plant have been successful. In fact, the NRC has developed  
> a more comprehensive review than the assessment requested by the Public  
> Service Board that will supplement its current uprate assessment.  
>  
> Governor Douglas said that he is pleased that the NRC has been responsive  
> to Vermont's desire for a comprehensive assessment of the plant. "We have  
> been aggressive in our efforts to convince the NRC that a comprehensive  
> assessment of Vermont Yankee is necessary," Douglas said. "They must  
> assure the people of Vermont, with certainty, that this facility is  
> operating safely."  
>  
> Douglas went on to say that his administration would continue to monitor  
> the assessments and the search for the missing fuel rods very closely.  
> "Our efforts will always put the health and safety of Vermonters first,"  
> he said.  
>  
> The new NRC assessment would be the first of its kind and applied to NRC  
> reactor oversight across the country. According to a letter to PSB  
> Chairman Michael Dworkin from NRC Chairman Diaz six experts including  
> several independent inspectors will conduct the inspection. According to  
> Chairman Diaz, more than 700 hours of direct inspection will be conducted.  
>  
> In addition, Chairman Diaz said that the NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor  
> Safeguards (ACRS) would conduct its own independent review of the power  
> uprate request. The ACRS is a committee that reports to the Commission

> and is a forum for experts to provide supplemental technical advice for  
> the NRC. The ACRS will then make another independent recommendation on  
> the uprate based its own review.

>  
> "The NRC will not approve the Vermont Yankee uprate, or any proposed  
> change to a plant license, unless the NRC staff can conclude that the  
> proposed change will be executed in a manner that assures the public's  
> health and safety," Chairman Diaz wrote.

>  
> The reviews announced today by the NRC are in addition to the established  
> uprate review process which includes a team of engineers with specialties  
> in a minimum of 17 different technical areas, more than 4,000 hours of  
> assessment on the engineering, design, and safety of the plant while  
> reviewing the uprate application.

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