



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

December 16, 2005

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OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

SERVED December 16, 2005

SECRETARY

The Honorable James M. Jeffords
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Jeffords:

This is a response to your letter dated November 10, 2005, addressed to Chairman Nils J. Diaz, in which you request an evaluation by the NRC of the condition of the steam dryer at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station. You emphasized that it is essential that your constituents receive information on the condition of the steam dryer during the consideration by the NRC of the proposed power uprate for Vermont Yankee. Your letter has been referred to the NRC staff. The staff will address your specific concerns in a direct reply.

Currently, contentions addressing the power uprate for Vermont Yankee are before an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board in a contested proceeding. Under Nuclear Regulatory Commission procedural rules for adjudications, the Commission has an appellate role in proceedings commenced before its Atomic Safety and Licensing Boards. Because of that role, I trust that you will understand that the Commissioners must remain impartial during the pendency of a case, whether it is before a Licensing Board or on appeal to the Commission.

A copy of your letter and this response, as well as, the response of the NRC staff when issued will be served on the participants in the Vermont Yankee proceeding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annette L. Vietti-Cook".

Annette L. Vietti-Cook

cc: Vermont Yankee Service List

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
)
ENTERGY NUCLEAR VERMONT YANKEE L.L.C.) Docket No. 50-271-OLA
and ENERGENCY NUCLEAR OPERATIONS, INC.)
)
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station))
)
(Operating License Amendment))

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing LETTER FROM ANNETTE L. VIETTI-COOK TO SENATOR JAMES M. JEFFORDS DATED DECEMBER 16, 2005 have been served upon the following persons by U.S. mail, first class, or through NRC internal distribution.

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Docket No. 50-271-OLA
LETTER FROM ANNETTE L. VIETTI-COOK TO SENATOR
JAMES M. JEFFORDS DATED DECEMBER 16, 2005

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Office of the Secretary of the Commission

Dated at Rockville, Maryland,
this 16th day of December 2005