

January 11, 2006

Mr. Lance J. Konover
16 Chase Street, Apt. 8
Lowell, MA 01852-3500

Dear Mr. Konover:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am writing in response to your e-mail of November 30, 2005, in which you expressed concerns regarding the proposed power uprate at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (Vermont Yankee).

The NRC's primary mission is to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety. We have taken great care to identify and address any potential safety concerns for operating Vermont Yankee at uprated power conditions. The NRC staff has spent over 9,000 hours on the technical review of the proposed power uprate. In addition, we spent over 900 hours on a specialized engineering inspection at Vermont Yankee. A copy of our 330-page draft safety evaluation is available on the NRC's Web site at <http://adamswebsearch.nrc.gov/dologin.htm> by searching for accession number ML053010167. The NRC will not approve the Vermont Yankee power uprate, or any proposed change to any plant license, unless the staff can conclude that adequate protection of public health and safety will be provided.

Your letter also expressed concerns about the age of Vermont Yankee. Consistent with NRC regulations, the licensee for Vermont Yankee was granted a 40-year operating license in 1972. The NRC requires licensees to maintain safety equipment in reliable operating condition and correct design deficiencies that could impact plant safety. Over the years, the licensee has periodically upgraded and replaced aging plant equipment. Regardless of its age, Vermont Yankee must comply with NRC regulations that protect the health and safety of the public.

Regarding your comments on sources of generating capacity, the NRC's authority in that area is limited to licensing and overseeing the safe operation of nuclear power plants. The conversion to other sources of energy would be an economic and policy decision made by other entities such as the Department of Energy, the Public Service Commissions, and private investors.

Thank you for your interest in these important matters. I hope you find the information in this letter useful.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Darrell J. Roberts, Chief
Plant Licensing Branch I-2
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

January 11, 2006

Mr. Lance J. Konover
16 Chase Street, Apt. 8
Lowell, MA 01852-3500

Dear Mr. Konover:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am writing in response to your e-mail of November 30, 2005, in which you expressed concerns regarding the proposed power uprate at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (Vermont Yankee).

The NRC's primary mission is to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety. We have taken great care to identify and address any potential safety concerns for operating Vermont Yankee at uprated power conditions. The NRC staff has spent over 9,000 hours on the technical review of the proposed power uprate. In addition, we spent over 900 hours on a specialized engineering inspection at Vermont Yankee. A copy of our 330-page draft safety evaluation is available on the NRC's Web site at <http://adamswebsearch.nrc.gov/dologin.htm> by searching for accession number ML053010167. The NRC will not approve the Vermont Yankee power uprate, or any proposed change to any plant license, unless the staff can conclude that adequate protection of public health and safety will be provided.

Your letter also expressed concerns about the age of Vermont Yankee. Consistent with NRC regulations, the licensee for Vermont Yankee was granted a 40-year operating license in 1972. The NRC requires licensees to maintain safety equipment in reliable operating condition and correct design deficiencies that could impact plant safety. Over the years, the licensee has periodically upgraded and replaced aging plant equipment. Regardless of its age, Vermont Yankee must comply with NRC regulations that protect the health and safety of the public.

Regarding your comments on sources of generating capacity, the NRC's authority in that area is limited to licensing and overseeing the safe operation of nuclear power plants. The conversion to other sources of energy would be an economic and policy decision made by other entities such as the Department of Energy, the Public Service Commissions, and private investors.

Thank you for your interest in these important matters. I hope you find the information in this letter useful.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Darrell J. Roberts, Chief
Plant Licensing Branch I-2
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

DISTRIBUTION: G20050858

Public	RidsRgn1MailCenter	RidsNrrPmJShea	RidsOgcRp
LPL1-2 R/F	RidsNrrOd	Rids NrrLaCRaynor	RidsNrrPmREnnis
NrrWpcMailroom	RidsNrrAdro	RidsOpaMail	RidsOigMail
RidsSecyMail	RidsNrrDorl	RidsOcaMail	TAlexion
RidsNrrEdo	RidsNrrDorlLplb	RidsNrrPmTAlexion	STurk, OGC
			VBucci, OIG

Accession Number: ML053610020

OFFICE	LPL1-2/PE	LPL1-2/PM CM	LPL1-2/LA	LPL1-2/BC
NAME	TValentine	REnnis	CRaynor	DRoberts
DATE	12/28/05	1/10/06	1/10/06	1/11/06

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY