OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Jan 13, 2006 08:39

PAPER NUMBER:	LTR-06-0033	**LOGGING DATE:**	01/12/2006
ACTION OFFICE:	EDO		

To: Shoop, OEDO
Appropriate Action

AUTHOR:	Peter Falion
AFFILIATION:	VT
ADDRESSEE:	Chrm. Nils Diaz
SUBJECT:	Vermont Yankee
ACTION:	Appropriate
DISTRIBUTION:	

cys: EDO
DEDMRS
DEDR
DEDIA
AO
NRR
R1
~~[illegible]~~

LETTER DATE:	01/12/2006
ACKNOWLEDGED	No
SPECIAL HANDLING:	
NOTES:	
FILE LOCATION:	ADAMS

DATE DUE: **DATE SIGNED:**

26 Chase Street
Brattleboro, Vermont 05301
December 15, 2005

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

Dear Chairman Diaz,

I live seven miles from the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon, Vermont.

As you are well aware, the owner of this plant, Entergy Vermont, has a request before the Commission to boost its power output by 20%. This is an aging plant. It is over 30 years old, in the last few years of its license. To grant an upgrade to such an old facility is, in my opinion, extremely short-sighted. But to grant Entergy's request without first conducting a *thorough independent safety assessment* of the physical condition of the plant is, in my opinion, outrageously irresponsible. Furthermore, no plant has ever requested a 20% increase. The thought of it positively chills me to the bone.

In light of the unexpected shutdowns at Vermont Yankee in both 2004 and 2005, the lost (then found) fuel rods, the transformer fire, and the significant ambiguities concerning the steam dryer and cooling pumps, I am hard put to understand why you are not insisting on an independent safety assessment.

The true fact of the matter is that most of my neighbors have little confidence that the assessment *conducted by Entergy* which is not exactly an unbiased player in all this.

Please do the right thing. **Please require an independent safety assessment** of this plant. My sense is that if you conduct such an assessment, issues will be identified for NOT granting the upgrade. Or, you can stick your head in the sand and hope for the best. The only thing is, you and the owners of this plant will not have to live with the negative consequences if something goes wrong at Vermont Yankee. But we who live within its long shadow will.

Sincerely yours,

Peter M Falion

Peter M. Falion

CC: Senator Patrick Leahy
Senator James Jeffords
Representative Bernard Sanders