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EarthAction
30 Cottage St.
Amherst, MA 01002

Chief
Rules and Directives Branch
Division of Administrative Services
Office of Administration
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

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RE: Federal Register/Vol. 71, No. 7/Wednesday, January 11, 2006/Notices (page 1774)

Gentlemen,

We write to express extreme concern regarding the decision by the Nuclear Regulatory Board to approve Uprate at the Vermont Yankee nuclear reactor, owned by Entergy, without requirement of a prior Independent Safety Assessment.

It is the purpose of the federal Nuclear Regulatory Board to represent the public and protect the public by approving or disapproving private corporations' operation of utilities. Yet, you have approved Entergy's *going on-line* to conduct an "Experimental Power Ascension Test" at uprate level. Our community is downwind from Vermont Yankee. Our citizens will be exposed to unnecessary risk by this substitution of a hasty on-line experiment for a thorough component-by-component Independent Safety Assessment *prior to* the reactor's going on-line.

We concur with Congressman John Olver's strongly worded letter saying that this method is irresponsible and unacceptable.

We urge you to fulfill your mission of protecting the public by reversing your decision, and requiring an Independent Safety Assessment at Vermont Yankee before approval for power Uprate.

Sincerely yours,

Lois Barber
Lois Barber
Executive Director
EarthAction

F-RIDS = ADM-03

add = R. Emis (RXE)
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