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From: Jonathan von Ranson <commonfarm@crocker.com>
To: <VermontYankeeEIS@nrc.gov>
Date: Wed, Jun 14, 2006 3:21 PM
Subject: Vermont Yankee plant relicensing

4/21/06

7/1 FR 20733

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To reviewers at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission:

Living within about 14 miles of a nuclear plant weighs on the minds of people, and my friends and neighbors virtually unanimously feel a strain whenever they think about Vermont Yankee. I am in both the construction trades and farming, self-employed in both fields, and as a contractor, dealing with others in that line of work, I have seen how strongly many people in construction feel an aversion to the Vernon, Vt., area because of uneasiness about the nuclear plant. I have heard builders voice scruples against building spec housing in that area. They wouldn't want to live there themselves and don't feel right about selling a family a house so close to the potential danger of meltdown, or the actual, ongoing radiation health hazard from the plant's operation. The town of Vernon remains quite sparsely populated despite taxes being low, and I believe appropriate concern about the nuclear power plant explains why.

The effects of worry don't cease at the town boundary, either—by harming the peace of mind, they negatively influence the choices of home buyers, adders-on and renovators, and of businesses looking to relocate in a radius of easily a dozen or perhaps 20 miles.

As an organic farmer with livestock and vegetable crops, I consider the radiation emissions from the plant's operation to be one more degrading influence in the environment, added to a number of others, that affects both crop plants and livestock raised in this area. It is difficult to quantify but I am confident from reading about the experiences of farmers in the area of this plant and others that the radiation stressor exists.

For these reasons, I strongly oppose the relicensing of the Vernon nuclear plant beyond 2012. I am willing to use less electricity if the license extension is denied, and to pay more for it.

Yours truly,

Jonathan von Ranson,
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-and-
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