



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
 NORTHEAST REGION
 One Blackburn Drive
 Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

JAN - 4 2007

Pao-Tsin Kuo, Acting Director
 Division of License Renewal
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
 U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
 Washington, D.C. 2055-0001

Re: EFH Assessment for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (TAC No. MC9670) License Renewal

Dear Mr. Kuo:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has received the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) assessment contained within the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (VYNPS) prepared by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). According to the information provided to NMFS, the NRC proposes the license renewal of the VYNPS for a period of an additional 20 years. The NRC has determined that the license renewal of the VYNPS would result in minimal adverse effect on EFH for Atlantic salmon.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments regarding this project. However, at this time NMFS does not have sufficient staff resources to evaluate the effects of the proposed action on EFH and other NMFS trust resources. Therefore, NMFS will not be able to undertake an EFH consultation for the proposed license renewal of the VYNPS. Related correspondence should be addressed to the attention of Michael Johnson at the letterhead address above, or by phone at (978) 281-9130.

Sincerely,

Louis A. Chiarella
 for Peter D. Colosi, Jr.
 Assistant Regional Administrator
 for Habitat Conservation

cc: EPA: Mel Cote
 USFWS: Marvin Moriarty
 PRD: Mary Colligan

