

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 09/06/07

EDO CONTROL: G20070590  
DOC DT: 08/23/07  
FINAL REPLY:

Senator Patrick Leahy  
Senator Bernard Sanders  
Representative Peter Welch

TO:

Chairman Klein

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

\*\* PRI \*\*

CRC NO: 07-0562

Chairman Klein

DESC:

Vermont Yankee Power Plant - Structure

ROUTING:

Reyes  
Virgilio  
Kane  
Ash  
Ordaz  
Cyr/Burns  
Dyer, NRR  
Schmidt, OCA  
Quinones, OEDO  
Cox, OEDO  
Fields, OEDO

DATE: 08/24/07

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

RI

Collins

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

A separate response to each Congressman needs to be prepared for the signature of the Chairman.

Template: SECY-017

E-RIDS: SECY-01

# EDATS

Electronic Document and Action Tracking System

**EDATS Number:** SECY-2007-0295

**Initiating Office:** SECY

## General Information

**Assigned To:** Region I

**OEDO Due Date:** 9/6/2007 5:00 PM

**Other Assignees:**

**SECY Due Date:** 9/10/2007 5:00 PM

**Subject:** Vermont Yankee Power Plant - Structure

**Description:**

**CC Routing:** NRR; OCA

**ADAMS Accession Numbers - Incoming:** NONE

**Response/Package:** NONE

## Other Information

**Cross Reference Number:** G20070590, LTR-07-0562

**Staff Initiated:** NO

**Related Task:**

**Recurring Item:** NO

**File Routing:** EDATS

**Agency Lesson Learned:** NO

## Process Information

**Action Type:** Letter

**Priority:** Medium

**Signature Level:** Chairman Klein

**Sensitivity:** None

**Urgency:** NO

**OEDO Concurrence:** YES

**OCM Concurrence:** NO

**OCA Concurrence:** NO

**Special Instructions:** A separate response to each Congressman needs to be prepared for the signature of the Chairman.

## Document Information

**Originator Name:** Sen. P. Leahy, Sen. B. Sanders, Rep. P. Welch

**Date of Incoming:** 8/23/2007

**Originating Organization:** Congress

**Document Received by SECY Date:** 8/24/2007

**Addressee:** Chairman Klein

**Date Response Requested by Originator:** NONE

**Incoming Task Received:** Letter

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

*Date Printed: Aug 24, 2007 10:09*

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**PAPER NUMBER:** LTR-07-0562 **LOGGING DATE:** 08/24/2007  
**ACTION OFFICE:** EDO

**AUTHOR:** SEN Patrick Leahy  
**AFFILIATION:** CONG  
**ADDRESSEE:** Chairman Dale Klein  
**SUBJECT:** Occurrence at the Vermont Yankee power plant on August 21, 2007

**ACTION:** Signature of Chairman  
**DISTRIBUTION:** RF, OCA to Ack

**LETTER DATE:** 08/23/2007  
**ACKNOWLEDGED:** No  
**SPECIAL HANDLING:** Comr. Correspondence

**NOTES:**  
**FILE LOCATION:** ADAMS

**DATE DUE:** 09/10/2007 **DATE SIGNED:**

EDO --G20070590

Congress of the United States  
Washington, D.C. 20515

August 23, 2007

The Honorable Dale Klein  
Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001  
Dear Chairman Klein:

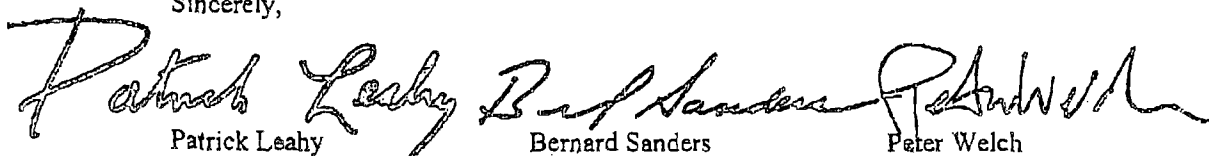
We are writing in response to the alarming events that occurred at Vermont Yankee power plant on August 21, 2007. It is our understanding that a non-safety related portion of one cooling tower cell at the plant collapsed. We further understand from your staff at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that there was no threat to the public's health with this accident and that the plant began to power down to 40% immediately following the accident.

We are concerned about the cause of this structural failure, especially about the implications for the cooling tower cell(s) that are related to the safe operation of the plant. We understand from your staff that the licensee, Entergy Vermont Yankee, is currently examining this accident to determine the cause of the collapsed tower and whether there was any evidence of structural deficiencies prior to the collapse. However, the NRC, has not yet committed to undertaking a thorough investigation of the safety related cooling towers cell(s) that are located on the same site and could potentially have similar structural issues. We find this extremely troubling.

We therefore request you undertake an immediate and thorough investigation to determine if there are similar structural deficiencies in any and all portions of the safety related cooling towers cell(s) at the facility. Furthermore, we ask you to examine the structural integrity of the remaining towers and institute any additional precautions to prevent other collapses that would jeopardize the safety of the cooling towers and that could present a risk to the public's health or safe operation of the facility. Finally we request an evaluation of any preventive actions that the licensee and/or NRC took in the past related to the safe and efficient operation of all of the cooling towers at the facility.

Please continue to keep us thoroughly informed as more information becomes available. We are committed to assisting Vermont and the NRC to ensure the safety at Vermont Yankee. We appreciate your timely attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

  
Patrick Leahy      Bernard Sanders      Peter Welch  
United States Senator      United States Senator      United States Representative