

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 03/26/08

EDO CONTROL: G20080173  
DOC DT: 03/12/08  
FINAL REPLY:

Governor James H. Douglas  
State of Vermont

TO:

Chairman Klein

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

\*\* PRI \*\*

CRC NO: 08-0141

Chairman Klein

DESC:

ROUTING:

Proposed Extension of the Operating License of  
the Vermont Yankee Plant (EDATS: SECY-2008-0147)

Reyes  
Virgilio  
Mallett  
Ash  
Ordaz  
Burns  
Wiggins, NRR  
Cyr, OGC  
West, OEDO

DATE: 03/17/08

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

RI

Collins

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Coordinate with NRR.

Template: SECY-017

E-RIDS: SECY-01

# EDATS

Electronic Document and Action Tracking System

**EDATS Number:** SECY-2008-0147

**Source:** SECY

## General Information

**Assigned To:** Region I

**OEDO Due Date:** 3/26/2008 5:00 PM

**Other Assignees:**

**SECY Due Date:** 3/28/2008 5:00 PM

**Subject:** Proposed Extension of the Operating License of the Vermont Yankee Plant

**Description:**

**CC Routing:** NRR

**ADAMS Accession Numbers - Incoming:** NONE

**Response/Package:** NONE

## Other Information

**Cross Reference Number:** G20080173, LTR-08-0141

**Staff Initiated:** NO

**Related Task:**

**Recurring Item:** NO

**File Routing:** EDATS

**Agency Lesson Learned:** NO

**Roadmap Item:** NO

## Process Information

**Action Type:** Letter

**Priority:** Medium

**Sensitivity:** None

**Signature Level:** Chairman Klein

**Urgency:** NO

**OEDO Concurrence:** YES

**OCM Concurrence:** NO

**OCA Concurrence:** NO

**Special Instructions:** Coordinate with NRR.

## Document Information

**Originator Name:** Governor James H. Douglas

**Date of Incoming:** 3/12/2008

**Originating Organization:** State of Vermont

**Document Received by SECY Date:** 3/17/2008

**Addressee:** Chairman Klein

**Date Response Requested by Originator:** NONE

**Incoming Task Received:** Letter

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Mar 17, 2008 08:29

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**PAPER NUMBER:** LTR-08-0141 **LOGGING DATE:** 03/13/2008  
**ACTION OFFICE:** EDO  
  
**AUTHOR:** GOV James Douglas  
**AFFILIATION:** VT  
**ADDRESSEE:** Dale Klein  
**SUBJECT:** Proposed extension of the operating license of the Vermont Yankee plant  
  
**ACTION:** Signature of Chairman  
**DISTRIBUTION:** RF  
  
**LETTER DATE:** 03/12/2008  
**ACKNOWLEDGED:** No  
**SPECIAL HANDLING:**  
**NOTES:** Commission Correspondence  
**FILE LOCATION:** ADAMS  
**DATE DUE:** 03/28/2008 **DATE SIGNED:**

EDO --G20080173

JAMES H. DOUGLAS  
GOVERNOR



State of Vermont  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

March 12, 2008

The Honorable Dale E. Klein  
Chairman  
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
One White Flint North  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, Maryland 20852-2738

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to you regarding the proposed extension of the operating license of the Vermont Yankee nuclear station in Vernon, Vermont. In addition to the approval of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Vermont law requires any such extension be approved by both the Vermont General Assembly and the Vermont Public Service Board.

The operation of Vermont Yankee is now at a critical juncture. Entergy Nuclear, its owner and operator, is seeking regulatory approval to extend its operating license for an additional 20 years. Events during the summer of last year, however, have raised doubts and questions about the safety and reliability of this nuclear station and its operations. Specifically, Vermont Yankee has had several avoidable events that include the partial collapse of a cooling tower and a reactor scram that have each been traced to shortcomings in the maintenance of equipment.

These events have shaken the confidence of Vermonters and our neighbors in New Hampshire and Massachusetts about the safety and reliability of the plant. They have brought into question whether Vermont Yankee should operate beyond its present operating license expiration date of 2012. In addition, I need to be assured that the conditions and/or practices that contributed to the events of last summer do not extend to other areas of the Vermont Yankee operation which may have an impact on plant safety as well as reliability.

Because of the above, I believe it is critical before the State of Vermont is in a position to finally consider a license extension that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission conducts a comprehensive reliability and safety assessment of Vermont Yankee. I am, therefore, formally requesting that the NRC conduct such an assessment, and do so in consultation with the Vermont Department of Public Service in formulating the inspection program. I also request that the assessment include the participation of the Vermont State Nuclear Engineer and consultants, and those NRC inspectors and contractors have independence from the Vermont Yankee operation.

The Honorable Dale E. Klein  
March 12, 2008  
Page Two

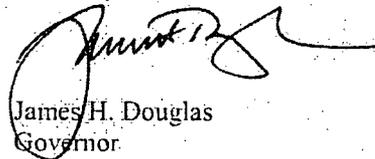
The bottom line is that any such assessment must provide the information needed for our regulators and the Vermont General Assembly to determine if the Vermont Yankee nuclear station can operate safely and reliably for the additional 20 years requested beyond its current licensed life.

This is an issue of critical importance to the State of Vermont. The members of Vermont's Congressional delegation, of course, have their own concerns with the information needed for a license extension, and my administration has had many conversations with them, and the Vermont General Assembly is considering legislation of its own to address this issue. Therefore as we discuss the scope of a review there are likely to be additional considerations from our Congressional delegation and our General Assembly that will need to be considered.

But we are now at a time that if the NRC is to conduct the assessment which I believe is essential, it must be initiated in the next several months to be completed in a timely fashion such that its findings can be available to both our Public Service Board, and the General Assembly when it convenes next January.

The State of Vermont looks forward to working cooperatively with the NRC to identify the full scope and breadth of this assessment, and I look forward to your positive response to my request.

Sincerely,



James H. Douglas  
Governor

JHD/pbb

c: Hon. Patrick Leahy, U.S. Senator  
Hon. Bernie Sanders, U.S. Senator  
Hon. Peter Welch, U.S. Representative  
Hon. Gaye Symington, Speaker of the House  
Hon. Peter Shumlin, President Pro Tempore Vermont Senate  
Hon. Anne Cummings, Chair Senate Finance Committee  
Hon. Robert Dostis, Chair House Natural Resources and Energy Committee  
Mr. David O'Brien, Commissioner Vermont Department of Public Service  
Mr. James Volz, Chairman Vermont Public Service Board