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July 1, 2008

Mr. Samuel Collins
 Region I Administrator
 U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
 475 Allendale Road
 King of Prussia, PA 19406

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 REGION I
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Dear Mr. Collins:

The Vermont State Legislature and Governor Douglas have enacted Act No. 189 “An Act Relating to a Comprehensive Vertical Audit and Reliability Assessment of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Facility”. This bill requires a comprehensive reliability and safety inspection of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Station to be planned and managed by the Department of Public Service (Department) with a completion date no later than January 30, 2009. In addition, Act 189 establishes an Oversight Panel of (at least three) nuclear experts to independently consult with the DPS on the inspection and to provide a report of its findings to the Vermont Legislature.

I am writing to request the NRC’s help in meeting the requirements of Act No.189 to the extent possible within the NRC’s Reactor Oversight Process as noted in Chairman Klein’s letter to Governor Douglas on April 11, 2008. The inspections required by Act 189 are both of a safety and reliability nature and therefore the Department seeks NRC’s assistance to address the areas of nuclear safety and the Department will be retaining a consultant team to address areas of plant reliability. As noted in the referenced letter by Chairman Klein, there are areas of plant operations where safety and reliability have some overlap. We wish to work with NRC in close communication and cooperation to effectively and efficiently address all the required inspections and to assure NRC’s responsibility for nuclear safety and security is maintained. In addition, the Department requests that the NRC brief the Oversight Panel at certain key milestones on its inspection activities and findings and hear the concerns of the Panel.

Thank you for the earlier discussions and cooperation your agency has already extended to our Department and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

David O’Brien
 Commissioner



Cc: The Honorable James H. Douglas, Governor of Vermont
The Honorable Patrick Leahy, U.S. Senator
The Honorable Bernie Sanders, U.S. Senator
The Honorable Peter Welch, U.S. Representative
The Honorable Gaye Symington, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Peter Shumlin, President Pro Tempora, Vermont Senate
The Honorable Anne Cummings, Chair, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Robert Dostis, Chair, House Natural Resources & Energy
Committee
Mr. James Volz, Chairman, Vermont Public Service Board