

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 03/05/10

EDO CONTROL: G20100076

DOC DT: 02/10/10

FINAL REPLY:

Governor John H. Lynch
State of New Hampshire

TO:

Chairman Jaczko

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** PRI **

CRC NO: 10-0043

Chairman Jaczko

DESC:

ROUTING:

Operation and Safety Concerns of the Vermont
Yankee Nuclear Power Plant (EDATS:SECY-2010-0088)

Borchardt
Virgilio
Mallett
Ash
Mamish
Burns/Rothschild
Leeds, NRR
Collins, RI
Burns, OGC

DATE: 02/12/10

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

EDO

Rihm

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Coordinate with NRR and Region I, as appropriate.
Ref. G20100075.

Template: SECY-017

E-RIDS: SECY-01

EDATS

Electronic Document and Action Tracking System

EDATS Number: SECY-2010-0088

Source: SECY

General Information

Assigned To: OEDO

OEDO Due Date: 3/5/2010

Other Assignees:

SECY Due Date: 3/9/2010

Subject: Operation and Safety Concerns of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant

Description:

CC Routing: NRR; RegionI; OGC

ADAMS Accession Numbers - Incoming: NONE

Response/Package: NONE

Other Information

Cross Reference Number: G20100076, LTR-10-0043

Staff Initiated: NO

Related Task:

Recurring Item: NO

File Routing: EDATS

Agency Lesson Learned: NO

OEDO Monthly Report Item: NO

Process Information

Action Type: Letter

Priority: Medium

Signature Level: Chairman Jaczko

Sensitivity: None

Urgency: NO

Approval Level: No Approval Required

OEDO Concurrence: YES

OCM Concurrence: NO

OCA Concurrence: NO

Special Instructions: Coordinate with NRR and Region I, as appropriate. Ref. G20100075.

Document Information

Originator Name: Governor John H. Lynch

Date of Incoming: 2/10/2010

Originating Organization: State of New Hampshire

Document Received by SECY Date: 2/12/2010

Addressee: Chairman Jaczko

Date Response Requested by Originator: NONE

Incoming Task Received: Letter

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Feb 12, 2010 12:40

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-10-0043 **LOGGING DATE:** 02/12/2010
ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: GOV John Lynch
AFFILIATION: NH-GOV
ADDRESSEE: Gregory Jaczko
SUBJECT: Expresses concerns about the operation and safety of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power plant owned by Entergy Corporation

ACTION: Signature of Chairman
DISTRIBUTION: RF, SECY to Ack

LETTER DATE: 02/10/2010
ACKNOWLEDGED: No
SPECIAL HANDLING:

NOTES:
FILE LOCATION: ADAMS
DATE DUE: 03/09/2010 **DATE SIGNED:**

EDO --G20100076



JOHN H. LYNCH
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February 10, 2010

The Honorable Gregory B. Jaczko
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Chairman Jaczko:

I want to share my deep concerns about the operation and safety of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power plant owned by Entergy Corporation, and to strongly urge the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to thoroughly investigate the safety and management of the plant before affirming an extension of its license.

Last month New Hampshire was made aware of elevated levels of tritium discovered in groundwater monitoring wells at the plant. Entergy had previously told Vermont officials that there was no underground piping carrying water that could contain radioactivity. However, in the search for the source of contamination, we learned that, in fact, a leak of underground piping containing tritiated water could be involved.

In addition to Entergy's previous denials about underground piping, the NRC's Environmental Impact Statement from August 2007 did not mention this as a risk or problem. NRC's Safety Evaluation Report of May 2008, in fact, concluded that there was no cause for concern with the plant's condensate systems.

These revelations lead me to question the credibility of Entergy and its ability to safely manage the plant. They also lead me to conclude that the NRC must undertake an additional and thorough investigation into the Vermont Yankee plant.

As you are aware, the Vermont Yankee plant is located on the bank of the Connecticut River, a New Hampshire waterway, which runs between New Hampshire and Vermont. Many New Hampshire communities fall within the emergency planning zone for the plant, and the plant releases cooling water into the Connecticut River. While the NRC and plant officials assert that the current situation does not pose a health risk, I am concerned on a broader level about the safety of this aging power plant, as well as the ability of Entergy to manage safety risks in the future.

The Honorable Gregory B. Jaczko

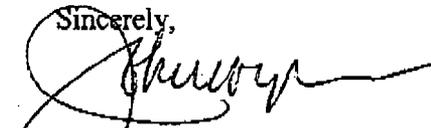
Page 2

February 10, 2010

I therefore request that the NRC undertake a full investigation of the tritium release and of the overall operation of the plant. I understand that a twenty-year license extension for the plant by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) has been appealed to the Commission. New Hampshire participated in that proceeding as an "interested State." Before you consider that appeal, it is essential that you undertake a thorough investigation into the current and future safety and management concerns of the plant, and of the valid concerns raised by the states.

I would like to thank the NRC for keeping New Hampshire informed over the past weeks and I look forward to continued communication as more information becomes available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. Lynch", written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

John H. Lynch
Governor

Received: from HQCLSTR02.nrc.gov ([148.184.44.77]) by TWMS01.nrc.gov
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<Linda.Mike@nrc.gov>, "Champ, Billie" <Billie.Champ@nrc.gov>
CC: "Lewis, Antoinette" <Antoinette.Lewis@nrc.gov>, "Wright, Darlene"
<Darlene.Wright@nrc.gov>
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