

October 27, 2010

The Honorable Patricia O'Donnell
Vermont House of Representatives
Montpelier, Vermont 05633

Dear Ms. O'Donnell:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter of August 11, 2010. I appreciate your taking the time to write to me and to share your thinking about Vermont Yankee and my July 14, 2010 visit to Brattleboro and the power plant. Unfortunately, I did not have more time to meet with a wider spectrum of organizations and individuals during my trip to Vermont.

The primary focus of my brief trip to Vermont was to tour the plant and meet with management and employees to hear their viewpoints and concerns, and to meet with some stakeholders who expressed concerns about the plant. Both the roundtable meeting and the plant tour and "all-hands" meeting were invaluable in giving me a better understanding of a diverse range of perspectives.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is charged with protecting the health, safety, and security of the American people and the environment, and so our clear focus must always be on the safety of the existing operating reactors and of nuclear materials. The nuclear debate is not part of our mission or our mandate, and we must stay focused on safety. The economic and climate-change perspectives about nuclear power may be more effectively addressed in the legislative or public opinion arenas.

If you believe there is important information I may not have heard, please feel free to contact me again. I appreciate your dedication and your many years of public service to your constituents and to the state of Vermont.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Gregory B. Jaczko