



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

April 1, 2011

Mr. Robert Brady, Vermont Coordinator  
Safe and Green Campaign  
167 Sunset Lake Road  
Brattleboro, VT 05301

Dear Mr. Brady:

Thank you for your March 11, 2011, letter enclosing letters from the selectboards of communities in close proximity to Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant (VY). We appreciate their concerns being brought to our attention.

On March 21, 2011, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued a renewed license to VY. A Notice of Issuance of the renewed license was published in the *Federal Register* on March 28, 2011 (76 FR 17162). VY has not informed the NRC that it intends to close prior to the expiration of its renewed license in March of 2032. The NRC will continue to ensure VY is meeting the appropriate public health and safety standards regardless of the reactor's ultimate operating status.

When decommissioning of VY does occur, the radiological health and safety of workers and members of the public will be subject to NRC requirements, and the NRC will exercise ongoing oversight of decommissioning activities to monitor compliance with its requirements. The decommissioning process will also include opportunities for public participation. A general overview of the decommissioning process is available at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/fact-sheets/decommissioning.html>. Answers to frequently asked questions about decommissioning, including information on transportation of radioactive waste from the reactor site to disposal facilities, is available at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1628/sr1628.pdf>.

While radiological health and safety aspects of decommissioning are subject to NRC requirements, some of the concerns expressed in the enclosed letters regarding closure and decommissioning of VY go beyond radiological health and safety. For example, the NRC does not have the authority to require that VY workers be given preference for decommissioning jobs or be given particular severance packages.

Finally, information about the NRC's ongoing oversight of VY is available via the NRC's website, [www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov). You may sign-up to receive electronic distribution of the NRC's outgoing correspondence with VY, at <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/listserver/plants-by-region.html>. You may also sign-up for electronic distribution of other NRC documents at <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/listserver.html>.

R. Brady

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If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact James Kim, at (301) 415-4125 or [James.Kim@nrc.gov](mailto:James.Kim@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric J. Leeds". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eric" and last name "Leeds" clearly distinguishable.

Eric J. Leeds, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-271

cc: Listserv

R. Brady

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If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact James Kim, at (301) 415-4125 or [James.Kim@nrc.gov](mailto:James.Kim@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

*/ra/*

Eric J. Leeds, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-271

cc: Listserv

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