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Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station

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Comment On: NRC-2015-0111-0001
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.; Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station; Draft Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact; Request for Comment

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4

General Comment

Comments for Docket ID = NRC-2015-0111

I want to go on record opposing Vt. Yankees elimination of the 10 mile EPZ, increasing the present notification time for an accident from the present 15 minutes to 60 minutes, and the elimination of these safeguards and real time monitoring of VY that will cease April 2016. Many State of Vermont officials, as well as Massachusetts towns in our area, have voiced their concerns as well.

Even though VY is closed, over 900 tons of highly radioactive fuel remains at Vermont Yankee. It is stored in a pool 6 stories high. Until all of the highly radioactive fuel is moved from the over-packed fuel pool into dry cask storage, the EPZ needs to be maintained and we need to receive sufficient notification time in case of an accident. Moving the fuel into storage is dangerous. Michael Howe, FEMA nuclear health physicist, says as long as highly radioactive nuclear fuel is hot, even if its in the spent fuel pool, emergency planning including plans for mass evacuation is necessary.

With VY downsizing its staff, is there enough security and oversight to protect citizens from terrorist threats? And if we lose power due to severe weather, or if the grid goes down for any other reason, will the back-up generators be sufficient to cool the spent fuel to ensure public safety?

These questions are important to consider especially after 9/11 and Fukushimaa plant that was the same Mark 1

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Boiling Water Reactor as VY. When the disaster happened in Fukushima, the US government advised US citizens to evacuate if they were within 50 miles! So you do not need to live within the 10 miles EPZ to be affected by an accident at VY. There are close to 3,000 spent fuel rods 3 million curies of highly radioactive spent fuel in the temporary spent fuel pool at VY. Hiroshima was only 2,000 curies!

VY is very close to an elementary school. Also, VY sits on 124 acres and sits in the middle of a village, compared to other decommissioned nuclear plants, that have a larger footprint of 6,700 to 12,000 acres. These are more reasons we need to continue the EPZ and all emergency planning.

The NRC needs to protect the public and continue ensuring our safety by making sure that Vermont Yankee continues the Emergency Planning Zone and all emergency plans that are currently in existence until all of the spent fuel is put into dry cask storage.

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