



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

*Local PDR*

Docket No. 50-271

JUN 25 1980

Mr. Dean Kent  
50 Hawley Street  
Northampton, Massachusetts 01060

Dear Mr. Kent:

A copy of your letter dated April 19, 1980 to the Commissioner, Vermont River Resources, was referred to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission by Senator Edward Kennedy along with his request that we provide you information or consideration on this matter.

As you may realize, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), or those states to whom permitting authority has been delegated by EPA, have exclusive responsibility for water quality protection including thermal requirements. The NRC's role in the water quality area is limited to the weighing of aquatic impacts as part of its cost-benefit balance in its licensing decision.

We have recently changed the Environmental Technical Specifications for Vermont Yankee reactor to reflect this division of responsibility. A copy of the license amendment (dated February 22, 1980) which accomplishes this is enclosed for your information. You may wish to further discuss your water quality concerns with EPA or the states affected.

Control of the radiological releases remains the responsibility of the USNRC. Radiological releases are permitted, but must remain within acceptable limits. The releases permitted by the Vermont Yankee operating license are within the restrictions imposed by the Standards for Protection against Radiation in the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR 20). For your information, we have enclosed the most recent issue of the Vermont Yankee Semiannual Release Report, dated March 7, 1980, covering the period July through December 1979. An audit of this report has not revealed any deviation from our requirements. If you have information of releases not included in this report, or if you are aware of reported releases which do not meet the Federal Regulations for this period, please bring the specifics to my attention.

Sincerely,

Harold R. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure and cc:  
See next page

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Mr. Dean Kent

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Enclosures:

1. License Amendment dated  
February 22, 1982
2. Vermont Yankee Semiannual  
Release Report

cc w/o enclosures:

The Honorable Edward Kennedy  
2400A JFK Federal Building  
Boston, Massachusetts 02203