

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 24, 1980

Mr. Carlton C. Kammerer, Director  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Office of Congressional Affairs  
1717 H Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Kammerer;

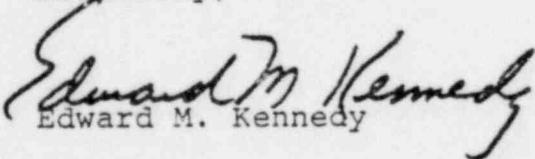
I am writing on behalf of Mr. Dean Kent, 50 Hawley Street, Northampton, Massachusetts, 01060, who has contacted my office relative to his concern for the environment and the water safety in his area. This issue does involve the Vernon Nuclear Plant and its' usage of the Connecticut River.

Enclosed you will find a copy of Mr. Kent's letter, which I believe is self-explanatory.

Any information or consideration you can offer him will be greatly appreciated. I would also appreciate if you will send a copy of your response to my Boston office.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

  
Edward M. Kennedy

2400A JFK Federal Building  
Boston, Massachusetts 02203

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The Commissioner  
Vermont River Resources  
The Statehouse  
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

April 19, 1980

Dear Sir,

As a citizen and a resident of the Connecticut River Valley, I am quite concerned by reports of "accidental" releases of radioactive water from the Vernon Nuclear Plant into the Connecticut River which runs nearby my home. I must question the wisdom of policies which may be endangering my health and safety and that of my neighbors. I believe that the policies of dumping hot cooling water and radioactive emissions into the river is highly questionable and may have long range detrimental effects now unforeseen. Beta emitting isotopes discharged by the Plant can be absorbed by fish and animal life, including man. Massive amounts of hot water, allowed to be dumped since 1974, may be radically altering delicate aquatic eco-systems which are now only partially understood.

In light of the poor safety record of the Vernon Plant and it's frequent releases of radioactive water (200,000 gallons in September 1979 and 83,000 gallons in July 1976) into a body of water near my residence in Northampton, I must urge a public hearing on the issue of the re-licensing of the Vernon Plant's rights to discharge thermally polluted water into the Connecticut River. In addition, I would request some assurance that radioactive emissions from the Plant will cease and that adequate environmental monitoring of isotope concentrations in the river silt and wildlife be conducted and that the files be opened to public scrutiny and discussion.

Sincerely,

*Dean Kent*

Dean Kent  
50 Hawley Street  
Northampton, Ma. 01060

cc: Sen. Paul Tsongas  
Sen. Edward Kennedy  
Sen. Edward Markey  
Gov. Richard Snelling  
Mayor Musante