



OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

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

August 25, 1980

Mr. William S. Jordan, III
Ms. Ellyn R. Weiss
1725 I Street, N.W.
Suite 506
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Mr. Jordan and Ms. Weiss:

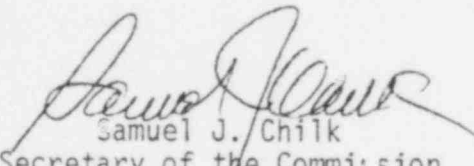
Your letter of August 1, 1980 urged the Commission to require containment inerting at Vermont Yankee and all other Mark I and Mark II containments without delay.

As you are aware the staff, in a series of papers to the Commission (SECY-80-107, SECY-80-107A and SECY-80-107B) which consider proposed interim hydrogen control requirements for small containments, has advanced arguments for and against the inerting of the Mark I and Mark II containments. The staff papers on hydrogen control were intended to establish the technical basis for interim hydrogen control requirements for small containments in advance of proposed interim amendments to 10 CFR Part 50 related to hydrogen control and certain degraded core consideration.

The Commission within the next month should receive the proposed interim amendments to 10 CFR Part 50 for review. A part of the proposed interim amendments will be the staff's proposal concerning inerting of the Mark I and Mark II containments. In considering the staff's proposals for interim amendments to 10 CFR Part 50, the Commission will decide whether or not to require inerting of Mark I and Mark II containments. The views expressed in your August 1 letter, as well as those expressed in your March 24, 1980 letter will receive consideration in reaching a decision on this question.

Thank you for your continued interest in the Mark I and Mark II containment inerting issue.

Sincerely,


Samuel J. Chilk
Secretary of the Commission

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