



50-271

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

FEB 5 1981

Mr. Emily B. Connelly  
Box 54  
Norwich VT 05055


Dear Ms. Connelly:

This letter is in response to your recent letter to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission regarding Vermont Yankee. The concerns expressed in your letter were recently considered in a decision issued on December 24, 1980 pursuant to 10 CFR 2.206 of the Commission's regulations. 10 CFR 2.206 provides an opportunity for persons to request the Commission to take action. A copy of the decision (DD 80-36, December 24, 1980) is enclosed for your information. As provided in 10 CFR 2.206, this decision is before the Commission to determine whether further review is appropriate.

With respect to your concern about storage of larger quantities of spent fuel onsite, the Vermont Yankee operating license was amended (Amendment No. 37, dated September 15, 1977) to permit them to replace the storage racks in the present spent fuel storage pool, increasing its capacity in phases from 600 fuel assemblies to 2000 fuel assemblies. Vermont Yankee has elected to expand the capacity on a gradual basis, and currently has a capacity of 1410 cells, of which 870 contain fuel assemblies. This, of course, is considerably less than the storage capacity of 2000 spent fuel assemblies which has been reviewed by the NRC and found to be safe.

I share your concern for nuclear safety, and will continue to enforce the Commission's safety regulations.

Sincerely,

  
Victor Stello, Jr.  
Director  
Office of Inspection  
and Enforcement

cc: See next page

Enclosure:  
Director's Decision

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Ms. Emily B. Connelly

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cc: Mr. W. F. Conway  
Vice President and Manager  
Operations  
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power  
Corporation  
P. O. Box 157  
Vernon, Vermont 05602

Vermont Yankee Decommissioning  
Alliance  
5 State Street  
Box 1117  
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

Brooks Memorial Library  
224 Main Street  
Brattleboro, Vermont 05301

Vermont Yankee Decommissioning  
Alliance  
127 Main Street  
Brattleboro, Vermont 05301

Resident Inspector  
c/o U. S. NRC  
P. O. Box 176  
Vernon, Vermont 05453

Public Service Board  
State Vermont  
120 State Street  
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

Dec 23, 1980

John C. Kearns, Chair.  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555



Dear Sir:

I'm deeply concerned about the safety of the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant. Since it has been shut down for refueling, cracks have been discovered in the "reactor water clean-up pipe." This pipe circulates and filters highly radioactive water from the reactor, these cracks could pose a serious threat to the public.

Another concern is that the storage pool for used uranium rods now contains twice the amount of nuclear waste it was designed to hold. I would like to see "Vermont Yankee" closed until safe and permanent storage facilities exist.

Respectfully yours

Emily B. Connelly

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