

FEB 23 1993

Docket No. 50-271

Mr. Richard P. Sedano, Commissioner
State of Vermont
120 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05620-2061

Dear Mr. Sedano:

I am responding to the State of Vermont's letter to Mr. Todd Fish of this office dated February 11, 1993. In your letter, you requested to have an NRC representative attend the Vermont State Nuclear Advisory Panel (VSNAP) meeting on March 9, 1993, to explain and elaborate upon the difference of opinion on events raised by the New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution (NECNP).

Our response on January 25, 1993 to the concerns raised by the NECNP in December 1992 remains unchanged in that no new information or insights were presented by NECNP that would alter previous SALP conclusions (note that our last three SALP reports span the period from July 1988 to August 1992). All of the events in question are well documented (i.e. LER's, NRC inspection reports), and don't represent a "systematic degradation of safety components." Most importantly, none of the more than 39 events cited by the NECNP are representative of the current level of safety that exists at the Vermont Yankee Station. We retain confidence in the NRC's systematic processes designed to evaluate a licensee's overall performance, identify potential adverse trends and apply needed enforcement actions where warranted.

Absent new information from the NECNP, we do not believe that it would be a prudent use of limited NRC resources to respond again to the same set of questions. Therefore, we must decline to participate in the up-coming VSNAP meeting. After the VSNAP has had the opportunity to hear from the NECNP, and understand their concerns, and if there is a further need to interact or resolve questions, NRC would of course answer any questions from the VSNAP. Hopefully, our response then would be to a reduced set of better focused issues. Whether a meeting is appropriate would need to be considered at that time.

The NRC is interested in maintaining the relationship established with the VSNAP as an efficient means of keeping the State of Vermont fully apprised of our regulatory conclusions with respect to the level of safety at the Vermont Yankee Station.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Charles. W. Hehl, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

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FEB 23 1993

Mr. Richard P. Sedano

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cc:

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Local Public Document Room (LPDR)

Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)

NRC Resident Inspector

State of Vermont

Commonwealth of Massachusetts (2)

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Mr. Richard P. Sedano

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bcc:

J. Wiggins, DRP

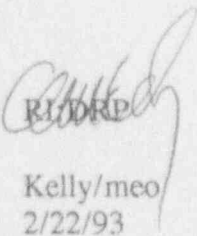
J. Linville, DRP

G. Kelly, DRP

D. Lew, DRP

H. Eichenholz, SRI - Vermont Yankee

T. Fish, SLO


RI:DRP

Kelly/meo
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Linville

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Eichenholz

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