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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE
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May 20, 1982

Ronald C. Haynes, Regional Administrator
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region I
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Re: Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation
Incident on April 24, 1982
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission - Region I
Report No. 82-07 - Docket No. 50-271

Dear Mr. Haynes:

In addition to commending your office for its thorough investigation and report on the above incident, I want to make clear Vermont's concern that Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station receive the most severe sanctions that are warranted by the facts. We want to be sure that Vermont Yankee officials fully appreciate the seriousness of the problems that arose at the plant the morning of April 24.

The failure of the licensed operators to recognize that the emergency core cooling system had been activated suggests inadequate operator training, poorly designed control room alarms, or both. The fact that the Nuclear Safety Engineer (Shift Technical Advisor) recognized that the ECCS was on and did not communicate that to the others in the control room, is also of great concern.

As state officials responsible for the health and safety of persons in Vermont, we consider it inexcusable that the operator instructions differ from the Vermont

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Add: V. Rooney
D. Vasallo
S/p

Ronald C. Haynes, Regional Administrator
Page 2
May 20, 1982

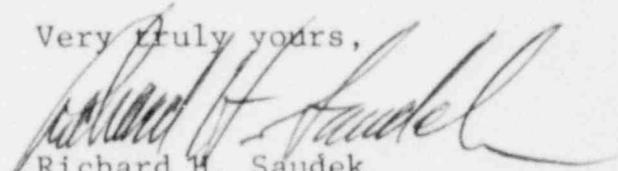
Radiological Response Plan notification provisions concerning the definition of an "Alert" status. We further find incomprehensible the fact that even after discovery that the ECCS activated, a full six hours elapsed before either the Vermont Yankee Chief Executive Officer or any state official was notified of the event.

In Mr. Starostacki's letter of May 12, 1982, he states:

An apparent violation of NRC requirements is discussed in the inspection report enclosed with this letter. We are considering this item for appropriate enforcement action and will be addressing this matter under separate correspondence at a later time.

We trust that your enforcement action will be sufficient to impress upon Vermont Yankee officials the seriousness of these matters and the importance that they be rectified promptly, fully and completely.

Very truly yours,



Richard H. Saudek
Commissioner

bp

cc: Richard A. Snelling, Governor