

September 14, 2004

The Honorable James M. Jeffords  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Jeffords:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to a request made by your staff during a conference call with the NRC staff on July 29, 2004. During the conference call, your staff requested that the NRC provide information to address the issues expressed in a letter dated June 28, 2004, from Mr. Arnold Gundersen and Mr. Paul Blanch to the Vermont Congressional delegation and the Chairman of the Vermont Public Service Board.

The issues in the letter from Mr. Gundersen and Mr. Blanch relate to the power uprate license amendment request by Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee, LLC, and Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station. Since the July 29<sup>th</sup> conference call, both the State of Vermont (through its Department of Public Service) and a public interest group, the New England Coalition, have requested a hearing and have sought leave to intervene in connection with the application for a license amendment to authorize the power uprate. The petition of the New England Coalition is supported by affidavits from Messrs. Blanch and Gundersen, which seek to raise fundamentally the same issues raised in their letter to the Vermont delegation and Vermont Public Service Board. The uprate amendment is currently being evaluated by the staff to determine compliance with the Commission's regulations and consistency with agency guidance; upon completion, the staff's review will be documented in a Safety Evaluation. Until then, it would be premature to comment further on the specific matters raised. When issued, we will provide a copy of the Safety Evaluation to you, as well as any further response to the specific contentions of Messrs. Blanch and Gundersen that may be warranted.

If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Luis A. Reyes  
Executive Director  
for Operations

September 14, 2004

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to a request made by your staff during a conference call with the NRC staff on July 29, 2004. During the conference call, your staff requested that the NRC provide information to address the issues expressed in a letter dated June 28, 2004, from Mr. Arnold Gundersen and Mr. Paul Blanch to the Vermont Congressional delegation and the Chairman of the Vermont Public Service Board.

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Luis A. Reyes  
Executive Director  
for Operations

September 14, 2004

The Honorable Bernard Sanders  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Sanders:

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Luis A. Reyes  
Executive Director  
for Operations

The Honorable James M. Jeffords  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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**/RA/**  
Luis A. Reyes  
Executive Director  
for Operations

Identical letter sent to:

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
The Honorable Bernard Sanders

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DATED: September 14, 2004

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