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From: Rosetta Virgilio 
To: Dean, William
Date: 5/5/04 5:13PM
Subject: Fwd: FW: Douglas: NRC to Conduct Enhanced Independent Assessment--Plan Goes Further than PSB Request and is Addition to Existing Uprate Review

Bill -

Note attached Statement from Governor Douglas, which I believe the Commission would be interested in seeing.

Rosetta

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Date: 5/5/04 2:33PM
Subject: FW: Douglas: NRC to Conduct Enhanced Independent Assessment--Plan Goes Further than PSB Request and is Addition to Existing Uprate Review

> JAMES H. DOUGLAS
> GOVERNOR
> <<...OLE_Obj...>>
>
> State of Vermont
> OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
> For Immediate Release:
> Wednesday, May 05, 2004
>
> Contact: Jason Gibbs
> (802) 828-3333
>
> Douglas: NRC to Conduct Enhanced Independent Assessment
>
> Plan Goes Further than PSB Request and is Addition to Existing Uprate
> Review
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> Montpelier, Vt.--Governor Jim Douglas today said his administration's
> efforts to urge the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to conduct a
> comprehensive Independent Engineering Assessment of the Vermont Yankee
> nuclear power plant have been successful. In fact, the NRC has developed
> a more comprehensive review than the assessment requested by the Public
> Service Board that will supplement its current uprate assessment.
>
> Governor Douglas said that he is pleased that the NRC has been responsive
> to Vermont's desire for a comprehensive assessment of the plant. "We have
> been aggressive in our efforts to convince the NRC that a comprehensive
> assessment of Vermont Yankee is necessary," Douglas said. "They must
> assure the people of Vermont, with certainty, that this facility is
> operating safely."
>
> Douglas went on to say that his administration would continue to monitor
> the assessments and the search for the missing fuel rods very closely.
> "Our efforts will always put the health and safety of Vermonters first,"
> he said.
>
> The new NRC assessment would be the first of its kind and applied to NRC
> reactor oversight across the country. According to a letter to PSB
> Chairman Michael Dworkin from NRC Chairman Diaz six experts including
> several independent inspectors will conduct the inspection. According to
> Chairman Diaz, more than 700 hours of direct inspection will be conducted.
>
> In addition, Chairman Diaz said that the NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor
> Safeguards (ACRS) would conduct its own independent review of the power
> uprate request. The ACRS is a committee that reports to the Commission

> and is a forum for experts to provide supplemental technical advice for
> the NRC. The ACRS will then make another independent recommendation on
> the uprate based its own review.

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> "The NRC will not approve the Vermont Yankee uprate, or any proposed
> change to a plant license, unless the NRC staff can conclude that the
> proposed change will be executed in a manner that assures the public's
> health and safety," Chairman Diaz wrote.

>
> The reviews announced today by the NRC are in addition to the established
> uprate review process which includes a team of engineers with specialties
> in a minimum of 17 different technical areas, more than 4,000 hours of
> assessment on the engineering, design, and safety of the plant while
> reviewing the uprate application.

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