

RULES AND DIRECTIVES
BRANCH
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Chief, Rules and Directives Branch
Division of Administrative Services
Office of Administration
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-001

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1/11/06

71 FR 1774

(24)

Dear Chief, Rules and Directives Branch:

I am sending this written comment in response to the notice by the Federal Register, Vol.71, No.7, page 1774, dated January 11, 2006, regarding the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has stated that uncertainty exists regarding the licensee's method for calculating stress on the (cracked) steam dryer, and thus it plans to conduct an experimental power ascension test. As Rep. John Olver (1st Congressional District of Massachusetts) wrote in a letter to the NRC on November 9, 2005, "conducting a stress test of components while the power level is being ramped up, is both irresponsible and creates an unacceptable risk to all those who live in the vicinity of the reactor."

I strongly urge you to consider this letter of Rep. Olver – a scientist with a PhD in chemistry, and a man known for his caution and thoughtfulness – and to conduct a comprehensive Independent Safety Assessment of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant such as was performed on the Maine Yankee Reactor.

Thank you for considering these comments on an issue so vital to public safety.

Sincerely,

Benjamin C. Forbes

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SIS Review Complete

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