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48 Richardson Road
Leverett, MA 01054
February 8, 2006

Chief, Rules and Directives Branch
Division of Administrative Services
Office of Administration
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Re: Federal Register Notice
Wednesday, January 11, 2006
Volume 71, Number 7, page 1774

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to urge you not to approve the uprate for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant. We believe the plant is currently an accident waiting to happen and to enable this old, crumbling plant to produce more power would be a grave mistake. We worry about our safety with the plant operating at its current level. If the uprate occurs, we will seriously consider leaving an area we love because we fear for our lives.

The potential for a meltdown exists everyday. In July 2005, water over the core evaporated so quickly that workers needed to add cold water to avert a meltdown. How often will potentially disastrous problems occur if the plant is uprated? The risk assessments in the draft Safety Evaluation released by your commission are based on the fallacious assumption that the reactor is brand new. The plant is not brand new, so the design basis safety margins no longer apply. The vast number of reduced safety margins on every page of the SE adds up to significant reductions in safety margins. We urge the NRC to perform an Independent Safety Assessment before any final decisions are made.

Sincerely,

Maureen Ippolito and Jeff Young
Maureen Ippolito and Jeff Young

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USNRC

STSP Review Complete

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R. E. (RXC)