

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 09/06/07

EDO CONTROL: G20070590

DOC DT: 08/23/07

FINAL REPLY:

Senator Patrick Leahy
Senator Bernard Sanders
Representative Peter Welch

TO:

Chairman Klein

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** PRI **

CRC NO: 07-0562

Chairman Klein

DESC:

ROUTING:

Vermont Yankee Power Plant - Structure

Reyes
Virgilio
Kane
Ash
Ordaz
Cyr/Burns
Dyer, NRR
Schmidt, OCA
Quinones, OEDO
Cox, OEDO
Fields, OEDO

DATE: 08/24/07

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

RI

Collins

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

A separate response to each Congressman needs to be prepared for the signature of the Chairman.

Template: SECY-017

E-RIDS: SECY-01

EDATS Number: SECY-2007-0295

Initiating Office: SECY

General Information

Assigned To: Region I

OEDO Due Date: 9/6/2007 5:00 PM

Other Assignees:

SECY Due Date: 9/10/2007 5:00 PM

Subject: Vermont Yankee Power Plant - Structure

Description:

CC Routing: NRR; OCA

ADAMS Accession Numbers - Incoming: NONE

Response/Package: NONE

Other Information

Cross Reference Number: G20070590, LTR-07-0562

Staff Initiated: NO

Related Task:

Recurring Item: NO

File Routing: EDATS

Agency Lesson Learned: NO

Process Information

Action Type: Letter

Priority: Medium

Signature Level: Chairman Klein

Sensitivity: None

Urgency: NO

OEDO Concurrence: YES

OCM Concurrence: NO

OCA Concurrence: NO

Special Instructions: A separate response to each Congressman needs to be prepared for the signature of the Chairman.

Document Information

Originator Name: Sen. P. Leahy, Sen. B. Sanders, Rep. P. Welch

Date of Incoming: 8/23/2007

Originating Organization: Congress

Document Received by SECY Date: 8/24/2007

Addressee: Chairman Klein

Date Response Requested by Originator: NONE

Incoming Task Received: Letter

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET**

Date Printed: Aug 24, 2007 10:09

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-07-0562 **LOGGING DATE:** 08/24/2007
ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: SEN Patrick Leahy
AFFILIATION: CONG
ADDRESSEE: Chairman Dale Klein
SUBJECT: Occurrence at the Vermont Yankee power plant on August 21, 2007

ACTION: Signature of Chairman
DISTRIBUTION: RF, OCA to Ack

LETTER DATE: 08/23/2007
ACKNOWLEDGED No
SPECIAL HANDLING: Contr. Correspondence

NOTES:
FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE: 09/10/2007 **DATE SIGNED:**

EDO --G20070590

Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20515

August 23, 2007

The Honorable Dale Klein
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001
Dear Chairman Klein:

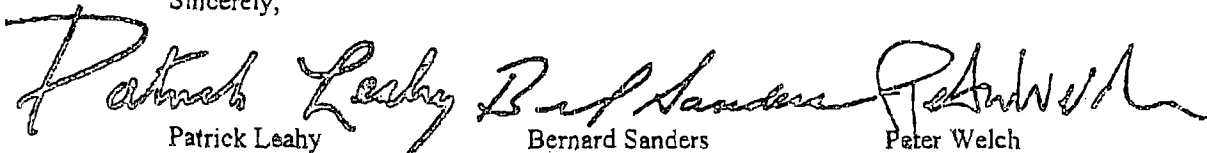
We are writing in response to the alarming events that occurred at Vermont Yankee power plant on August 21, 2007. It is our understanding that a non-safety related portion of one cooling tower cell at the plant collapsed. We further understand from your staff at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that there was no threat to the public's health with this accident and that the plant began to power down to 40% immediately following the accident.

We are concerned about the cause of this structural failure, especially about the implications for the cooling tower cell(s) that are related to the safe operation of the plant. We understand from your staff that the licensee, Entergy Vermont Yankee, is currently examining this accident to determine the cause of the collapsed tower and whether there was any evidence of structural deficiencies prior to the collapse. However, the NRC, has not yet committed to undertaking a thorough investigation of the safety related cooling towers cell(s) that are located on the same site and could potentially have similar structural issues. We find this extremely troubling.

We therefore request you undertake an immediate and thorough investigation to determine if there are similar structural deficiencies in any and all portions of the safety related cooling towers cell(s) at the facility. Furthermore, we ask you to examine the structural integrity of the remaining towers and institute any additional precautions to prevent other collapses that would jeopardize the safety of the cooling towers and that could present a risk to the public's health or safe operation of the facility. Finally we request an evaluation of any preventive actions that the licensee and/or NRC took in the past related to the safe and efficient operation of all of the cooling towers at the facility.

Please continue to keep us thoroughly informed as more information becomes available. We are committed to assisting Vermont and the NRC to ensure the safety at Vermont Yankee. We appreciate your timely attention to this issue.

Sincerely,


Patrick Leahy Bernard Sanders Peter Welch
United States Senator United States Senator United States Representative