South Royalton, VT
05068

Incoming to all ltrs

Jan 8, 1981

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street
Washington, D.C. 20555

Recent Developments at Vermont Yankee:

Due to the efforts of Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance (V.Y.D.A.) public attention was once again brought to Vermont's Nuke. This time it was faulty bolts installed by a company (Hartwell-one time associate of ITT) that, so it seems, is "no longer in existance." Apparently the bolts were replaced and now V.Y. is attempting to sue Hartwell-if they can be found! The bolt replacement is fine, but what about the rest of the work this company did? If poor bolt installation was found in this particular case can it be found elsewhere with even more consistancy? (NOTE: 20% of the 500 bolts tested were found defective-rather than complete to time the plant replaced 3200 bolts at a total cost of five million dollars.)

In the BURLINGTON FREE PRESS Nov. 26, 1980 a V.Y. spokesman was quoted ; "there is no problem with the safety here." Isn't a thorough investigation, of at least Hartwell's work, worth the time and effort? After all, it looks like Hartwell had a reason for "going out of existance."

Considering the tight safety requirements of an operating Nuke I would ask the N.R.C. to have V.Y. call time until a more thorough investigation is conducted.

Sincerely,
RANDOLPH WILSON
Concerned Citizen

C.C. Gov. Snelling
V.Y.

8101210668

Vermont Yanke
Decommissionin
Allianc
127 Main Str
Brattleboro·Vermont 05
802-254-99
Box 1117·5 State Str
Montpelier·Vermont 056
802-223-72

John Ahearne, Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

November 27, 1980

Dear Chairman Ahearne:

We are writing to you about a matter of grave concern and urgency. The Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant in Vernon has been shutdown since September 27 for refueling and scheduled repairs. During the past two months, a number of serious and unexpected problems have surfaced at the facility. The plant was scheduled to resume operations on November 29 but these additional discoveries have forced further delays. We believe that there will be a real and imminent threat to human life if Vermont Yankee reopens.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter that we mailed this week to Vermont public officials calling for "a full and public investigation into the operation and safety of Vermont Yankee." We have also contacted our congressional delegation for the purpose of involving them in working in our behalf in this serious matter.

We ask that you launch such an investigation immediately in cooperation with the state of Vermont and citizens groups and that you organize public hearings. Naturally, we fully expect that the plant will remain closed for the duration of the investigation.

A delegation of our membership intends to visit you and your staff next week in Washington. We will contact your office to arrange a meeting time.

We must all work together in a prompt and open manner to forestall the irrevocable threat that Vermont Yankee poses to our beautiful region.

Sincerely,

Virginia Callan
Vermont Yankee
Decommissioning Alliance
Montpelier, Vt. 05602
(802) 223-2895

Cort Richardson
Vermont Yankee
Decommissioning Alliance
Brattleboro, Vt. 05301
(802) 257-0172

cc. William Dirks, Director
Safety and safegards Division
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dup 3PP
8012100461

Honorable Richard A. Snelling
State of Vermont, State House
Montpelier, VT 05602

Honorable Richard Saudek, Chairman
Vermont Public Service Board
Vermont State Nuclear Advisory Panel
Montpelier, VT 05602

Honorable Brendan J. Whitaker, Secretary
Agency of Environmental Conservation
Montpelier, VT 05602

Vermont Yankee
Decommissioning
Alliance
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Brattleboro·Vermont 05
802 254-9
Box 1117·5 State Str
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802 223 7

Dear Sirs:

Vermont lies in one of the most beautiful regions of our country. The State government has enjoyed a long standing reputation of concern for the health of its citizens and for protection of its invaluable natural resources. We know that you share these concerns and that you will act in this tradition on the following matter.

This is a request for a full and public investigation into the operation of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant. Recent disclosures about new problems at the facility give us great reason for concern. An independent, sufficiently funded investigation into the safety and management of Vermont Yankee is in the public interest.

We petition you and your respective agencies to exercise your authority to organize such an investigation on the behalf of thousands of our supporters in this state, and throughout the area adjacent to the plant. We request, also, that public hearings be held on this important matter. We ask that you seek the full cooperation and participation of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission as well as independe experts in this effort. Most importantly, you should use the emergenc powers available to you to ensure that the plant will remain closed during this process.

On September 27, Vermont Yankee shutdown for maintenance, repairs and refueling.The plant was scheduled to re-open on November 29. Inste a number of new problems have surfaced which require repairs or replacement. These discoveries have delayed the re-opening of the plant for an undetermined period of time.

Cracks and corrosion have been discovered in components of the plant's water cleanup system including a sixty foot section of the very important reactor water discharge pipe. It is not clear what caused this unexpected fatigue in such a critical area of the plant. This is very serious. Potentially, such insufficient protection in an important section of the primary cooling system could cause a loss of coolant in the reactor resulting in immediate danger to the public. This situation should be a central part of the investigation into plant management and safety.

The facility's turbine generator also showed signs of significant wear and will require repairs. A turbine at the Yankee Atomic Plant in Rowe, Massachusetts in similar condition caused that plant to be closed for most of this past year when it literally fell apart during an attempted start-up. Apparently the corrosion and stress sustained by these systems combined with possibly poor design and workmanship have contributed to accelerated decay and unreliability.

The Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation is currently seeki to recover their expenses from the costly replacement of defective bolts in the piping support system resulting from their original and possibly fraudulent installation. Can we reasonably assume that Vermont Yankee can be reopened when the bolt issue represents the latest in a history of improper operation, unexpected repairs, and unscheduled and extended shutdowns?

The history of the Dry Well Torus emergency containment system currently under repair at Yankee, is one of repeated and costly failures in repair attempts, resulting in years of operation without the full benefit of this critical safety system. The fact that there have been repeated leaks in the plant's cooling systems has added to danger of a life-threatening accident because the torus was designed to back-up those systems in the event of a major loss of coolant acci

Vermont Yankee is the only plant in the country that refuses to install an inerting system, even though the N.R.C. has advised them to install one. This safety unit would forestall a hydrogen explosion that would breach the reactor containment in the event of an accident.

The plant has been allowed to operate since last June without any further action from Vermont's Water Resources Board on the company's application to renew its water discharge permit. At a publi hearing that was held in Brattleboro that month, many questions and objections were raised and the permit was held back for additiona study. Unfortunately, the plant has operated since that time under the old permit even though it did not comply with the terms of its contract with the state.

These events cannot be ignored. There is a serious and immedi danger to the people of our region if Vermont Yankee reopens without a thorough investigation. It is our belief that these aforementione problems constitute the most extreme and immediate threat to public safety that Vermont Yankee has ever posed.

Sincerely,

John Warshow
Central Vermont
Safe Energy Coalition

Chris Wood
Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance

AD HOC CITIZENS GROUP
FOR SAFETY AT VERMONT YANKEE
85 School Street
Greenfield, Ma., 01301
01301

Stoper
Stello
Denton
Davis
Approp. response
as indicated
by EDO 9919

November 30, 1980

Governor Richard Snelling
State of Vermont
Montpelier, Vermont, 05602

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20555

Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp.
121 West Street
Rutland, Vermont, 05701

Dear Friends,

We are Massachusetts citizens who live near to the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant. Our homes, families and businesses are closer to the plant than the great majority of Vermont citizens. We are downstream, and often downwind. We are deeply concerned.

You are the three authorities with the power to answer our appeal. We appeal to you to use every power you have to keep the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant closed until:

1. A complete and independent investigation is conducted into the safety and management of the Vermont Yankee plant. There are serious problems at Vermont Yankee, which we will outline in this letter. We plead with you to hold off the start-up of the plant until these problems have been thoroughly investigated.

2. The findings of this investigation are published, and adequate measures are taken to improve the safety of the plant. Some of these measures are outlined in this letter.

If Vermont Yankee is allowed to re-open as scheduled, in its present condition, there will be serious trouble. All the evidence points to the likelihood of a major and serious accident at this plant, if opened in its present condition.

WE PLEAD WITH YOU to use your powers to prevent the start-up of this plant. You have the authority to take this action.

These are the problems at Vermont Yankee that concern us, problems which endanger the public:

1. Corroded and cracked pipes in the "Reactor Water Clean-up system" have not been replaced, ADEQUATELY.

The pipes, plagued by hairline cracks and corrosion down to ¼ inch thickness pose a serious threat of breakage. The breakage would lead to a loss of coolant, leading to a core meltdown. A core meltdown would cause our neighbors and us untold damage in lives, health, livestock, land and livelihood.

dupe 8012150192

The Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation has not replaced the worn equipment. Instead, temporary employees are being sent inside the pipes to "weld" the cracks and weak points. The welding may actually serve to weaken the pipes, and certainly wont protect the public from threat of accident.

2. The "Bolt Scandal" uncovered last week by anti-nuclear groups and the press is more than just a humorous testimony to the lack of safety at Vermont Yankee. We can joke about the Company having " a few screws loose", but the reality is quite frightening.

3000 bolts were replaced at a cost of millions of dollars. Many of these bolts, designed to uphold vital safety systems, were discovered to be cracked and faulty. Others were deceptively "sawed off", and welded on, to give the appearance of proper bolting.

The Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation has threatened to sue the construction company responsible for this negligence. However, there has been no thorough investigation of other construction done by this company. It is likely that if corners were cut here, they were cut in other stages of construction. An investigatinn is desparately needed into the construction of this plant. This incident sheds some light on the question of the long and troublesome record of Vermont Yankee. We are concerned that the construction of this plant was faulty, and 8 years later, still is not corrected.

Repairs must be implimented on the findings of this investigation. This investigation must be conducted before the plant re-opens.

3. Vermont Yankee is the only plant in the nation that has refused to install an "inerting system", as recommended by the N.R.C.

This system is extremely vital to prevent explosions and fires in the plant. In light of the "hydrogen bubble" situation experienced at Three Mile Island, it would be wise to install this safety system NOW, before the plant goes back on line.

4. There is serious evidence that Vermont Yankee, over the past 8 years of operation, is suffering from "metal fatigue" and "stress corrosion". In the layperson's terms, this means wear and tear.

We Massachusetts residents understand the implications of age on a nuclear power plant. As you may know, our own Yankee Atomic plant in Rowe was recently closed down for 9 months. Wear and tear on the steam turbine caused a breakdown, luckily to the non-nuclear end of the plant. We understand that the turbine at Vermont Yankee has been under repair during this shutdown, for similar reasons. We applaud the forsight to conduct the repairs <u>before</u> an accident occurs. We ask that the same good judgement be used <u>now</u> on therest of the plant's problems.

The turbine and the Reactor Water Clean-up pipes offer us evidence of such wear and tear inside Vermont Yankee. The consequences of starting up Vermont Yankee, before investigating these concerns, are serious.

The Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power plant is in a serious state of disrepair. This is not a question of being "anti-nuclear" or "pro-nuclear", it is a question of being for safety, or against it.

You have recieved this letter, because you have the authority to order the continued rest of the Vermont Yankee facilty, until adequate safeguards are taken, and an investigation is conducted.

We trust that you will see the wisdom of taking this action. Time is short. Vermont Yankee is scheduled to resume operation on December 15th - traditionally, they re-open a few days before the publicly announced date. Please take the time now to make your decision.

May a sense of moral responsibility for the American People guide you in your hour of decision.

Sincerely,

The Ad Hoc Citizens Group
for Safety at Vermont Yankee

name	town	signature
Lisa Limont	Conway	Lisa Limont
DAVID DETMOLD	GREENFIELD	David Detmold
Ricky Greenwald	Greenfield	Ricky Greenwald
L GIORDANO III	CHARLEMONT	[illegible]
NINA KELLER	Wendell	Nina Keller
Martha Miller	Northfield	Martha Miller
Charles Thompson	Smith Wendell	Charles Thompson Smith
JAMES M. KESSLER	GREENFIELD	James M. Kessler
JANICE HASSETT	Wendell	Janice Hassett
William Bickford	Greenfield	William Bickford
Malcolm Quint	North Hadley	Malcolm Quint
Sioux Fortgang	Wendell	Sioux Fortgang
[illegible]	Ashfield	[illegible]
Alan Berman	Leverett	Alan Berman
Shelley Moore	Greenfield	Shelley Moore
Thomas A. Wilson, D.D.S.	Shelburne	Thomas A. Wilson, D.D.S.
Debbie Fair	Wendell	Debbie Fair
CHRISTOPHER HANSEE	NORTHFIELD	Christopher Hansee
Paula Swenson	Greenfield	Paula Swenson
Richard W. Thompson	Greenfield	Richard W. Thompson
Ariel M. Hall	Ashfield	Ariel M. Hall
Terry Caldwell	Shelburne Falls	Terry Caldwell
[illegible] Williams	Charlemont	[illegible]
[illegible]	Charlemont	[illegible]
[illegible] Florence	Charlemont	[illegible]

[illegible] HARGRAVES	HEATH	[illegible]
JUDY HIBSHMAN	HEATH	Judy Hibshman
JEAN WATTMAN	PITTSFIELD	Jean R Wattman
BERTRAM HARDWICK	PLAINFIELD	Bertram Hardwick
Cathleen Huttinger	Shelburne	Cathleen Huttinger
Kenton Tharp	CUSHMAN	KENTON THARP
Ann Perkins	Wendell	Ann Perkins
ALAN SUPRENANT	ASHFIELD	Alan Suprenant

Stello

No. 80 - 2126 Logging Date 12/11/80

NRC SECRETARIAT

TO:
- [X] Commissioner _____ Date _____
- [ ] Exec. Dir./Oper.
- [ ] Cong. Liaison
- [ ] Public Affairs
- [ ] _____
- [ ] Gen. Counsel
- [ ] Solicitor
- [ ] Secretary
- [ ] Inspector & Auditor
- [ ] Policy Evaluation

Incoming: Ad Hoc Citizens Group for Vermont Yankee

From: Lisa Limont et al;

To: NRC Date 11/30/80

Subject: urges the NRC to keep ~~VY~~ closed ~~XXX~~ until investigation has been completed

- [ ] Prepare reply for signature of:
  - [ ] Chairman
  - [ ] Commissioner _____
  - [ ] EDO, GC, CL, SDL, PA, SECY, IA, PE
  - [ ] Signature block omitted
  - [ ] _____
  - [ ] Return original of incoming with response

- [ ] For direct reply*
- [X] For appropriate action
- [ ] For information

Rec'd Ctr. EDO
Date 12/12/80
Time

Remarks: Cpy to: Docket

For the Commission: billie

*Send three (3) copies of reply to Secy Correspondence and Records Branch

NRC-42 ACTION SLIP

MacNeil
Box 84
Greensboro Vt.
0 5 8 4 1

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington D.C.

To Whom it May Concern:

I live in Vermont and am concerned by the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant at Vernon. During a recent shut down a more rapid deterioration of the plant than would be expected was found in the torus and among seismic bolts. This raises a question as to the safety of those parts of the plant left unchecked during this shutdown. I would like the NRC to keep the plant shut pending a full scale investigation; and public hearings to question the safety of the plant.

Sincerely
MacNeil

Dup 1P6012 US 12

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Box 1117·5 State Street
Montpelier·Vermont 05602
802-223-7222

December 3, 1980

Mr. James Ahearn, Commissioner
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Ahearn:

In light of the recent developments at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Plant in Vernon, Vermont, as well as a long history of accidents and continued failure to meet safety standards, a full and public investigation is imperative before allowing the plant to go back on line.

Representatives of the Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance (VYDA) have addressed our concerns and identified the specific areas requiring investigation at the plant in communications with Richard Snelling, Governor of Vermont, and John Griffin, President of Vermont Yankee Nuclear Plant. We believe that the situation at the plant constitutes an immediate and serious threat to the safety of the people of Vermont and surrounding areas.

I would like to take this opportunity to spell out our concerns and our busines with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Our concerns are many: 1) the water clean-up system and reactor discharge pipe, 2) the accelerated and unexpected decay of the turbine generator, 3) the repeatedfailure to repair the Dry Well Torus, 4) the absence of a proper inerting system, and, 5) prolonged operation under an out-dated safety waiver.

Our business is to request that the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Plant remain closed until such time as a full investigation has proven that it no longer poses a threat of imminent danger to the public.

It is our hope and expectation that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will exercise its authority in this matter to require that the plant remain closed and initiate a full investigation of the crucial situation at Vermont Yankee.

Yours truly,

Leslie J. Dowling

Leslie J. Dowling

Dup 1P 8012150153

12/9..To EDO for Direct Reply..Suspense: Dec 29.. Cpys to: RF, OGC, Orig to Docket..treat as 2.206 petition per OGC....80-2107