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January 5, 1993

Mr. Thomas T. Martin, Regional Administrator
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission -- Region I
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Dear Tim:

I am writing to encourage your review of the New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution (NECNP) letter to Chairman Selin dated December 16, 1992. Although not sharply focused, the letter appears to allege that plant safety at Vermont Yankee is being affected by economics and "cost-cutting."

The NECNP letter summarizes a series of reportable events which have occurred at Vermont Yankee over the last eight years. We believe that each of these events has been evaluated by your staff independently. However, NECNP believes it sees a trend related to challenges to safety as a result of "cost-cutting."

Subsequent to the NECNP letter, on December 23, 1992, Vermont Yankee notified the Region of faulty fire barriers in cases where pipes with asbestos insulation penetrate walls. The first penetration was discovered in May, 1992; other penetrations were not inspected for nine months until December, 1992.

We believe Vermont Yankee should be operated safely first and economically second. Both are important. Yet we are concerned that it took nine months after finding the first faulty fire barrier to determine that many similar fire barriers were also faulty. I am asking that you include this fire barrier event as part of your review of the NECNP letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard P. Sedano".

Richard P. Sedano
Commissioner

cc: Howard Dean, Governor
J. Gary Weigand, VY