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July 26, 2013

Mr. William Dean, Regional Administrator
U.S. NRC Region 1
2100 Renaissance Blvd., Suite 100
King of Prussia, PA 19406-27L3

RE: Vermont Yankee Radiation Monitors

Dear Mr. Dean:

I am writing to express concern about incidents involving Vermont Yankee experiencing failures with its radiation monitors in June and July of this year such that standby ventilation and isolation was initiated. One incident was recorded on June 14th, and a second on July 11th, and we understand there may have been other such incidents that precipitated Vermont Yankee's decision to replace their radiation monitors.

Failure of the radiation monitoring equipment is a serious issue, and could have under other circumstances led to significant harm if the failed equipment had not detected a radiation release at the plant.

I respectfully request that the NRC provide the Public Service Department a full accounting of what information Vermont Yankee provided with respect to these incidents. Please also provide any information on the age and functionality of the failed radiation monitors that was considered as part of the NRC's decision in 2012 to relicense Vermont Yankee for a 20-year period.

I also request to know why such a potentially serious equipment failure is a 60 day reporting requirement under NRC regulations, instead of an immediate reporting requirement for the licensee nuclear operator. Common sense would dictate that radiation monitoring equipment be functioning properly 100 percent of the time, and that such equipment failures would be immediately reported to regulators and corrected.

I appreciate your review and response to our request. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Darren Springer
Deputy Commissioner

