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March 21, 2013

Mr. William Dean, Regional Administrator
U.S. NRC Region 1
2100 Renaissance Blvd., Suite 100
King of Prussia, PA 19406-2713

RE: Vermont Yankee Blowout Panel Incident of March 18, 2013

Dear Mr. Dean:

I am writing in reference to the subject incident at the Vermont Yankee nuclear power station in Vernon, VT. The information provided to me is that due to incorrect ventilation line-up, pressure increased in the secondary containment until a blow-out panel released. The panel, when released, should have been secured to the structure by an attached wire rope to prevent it from falling from the building. However, in this incident, the panel dropped onto the turbine building roof.

I understand that within 30 days Vermont Yankee will produce for the NRC a "root cause" analysis containing the specific details of this incident. I am writing to ask what information, if any, Vermont Yankee provided to the NRC with respect to the following topics, and how the NRC evaluated the following topics in connection with the NRC's decision to grant Vermont Yankee a 20-year extension to its operating license:

- 1) the integrity of the electrical, mechanical and physical components of the air intake/exhaust system, including those components associated with secondary containment;
- 2) the adequacy of the design of the air intake/exhaust system, including that associated with secondary containment;
- 3) Vermont Yankee's procedures for: (i) operating the air intake/exhaust system, including that used for secondary containment, and (ii) detecting and responding to an abnormal condition;
- 4) the physical integrity of components in the air intake systems at Vermont Yankee including the blow-out panels and associated hardware of the components involved in this incident (eye-bolts, wire ropes, etc.);
- 5) the adequacy of the design of the blow-out panels and associated hardware (eye-bolts, wire ropes, etc.), including any discussion involving more recent designs of such components;
- 6) Vermont Yankee's procedures for responding to incidents like the one involving the blown-out panel.

I would appreciate receiving any information you have regarding the above six topics. In particular, I would appreciate receiving information provided to you by Vermont Yankee; how the NRC reviewed that information; how the six topics were evaluated during the relicensing process; observations and suggestions offered; and any findings made by the NRC regarding these items. I look forward to your reply. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Christopher Recchia
Commissioner



cc: Christopher J. Wamser, Vermont Yankee