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## **Governor Salmon Calls for Fact-Based and Respectful Discussion About Vermont Yankee and Its Future**

Montpelier, VT/October 14, 2008 – In conjunction with today’s U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission public hearing about the cooling towers at Vermont Yankee, Governor Thomas P. Salmon, a founding member of the Vermont Energy Partnership, issued the following statement.

“Today’s hearing serves an important purpose as it will help ensure that the cooling tower operation problems at Vermont Yankee are understood and addressed, while serving notice that such improvements must be made and assured. It is also important, however, to view and discuss Vermont Yankee in a broader context.

Since 2002 when it purchased the plant, Entergy has made more than \$190 million in capital expenditures to continuously upgrade and improve the plant, as part of a commitment to make Vermont Yankee a world-class facility. This commitment to operational excellence augurs well for the cooling towers and for the plant’s future.

It is very likely that at today’s hearing many will put forward hysterical, alarming, and flat out rude claims and seek to use the cooling tower situation as yet one more pretext to close Vermont Yankee.

Let us keep in mind, however, some fundamentally important facts. Vermont Yankee is subject to approximately 7,000 hours a year of NRC inspections and has been scrutinized much more intently as part of its current license renewal application. As a base load power provider which meets a third of the state’s electricity needs, Vermont Yankee helps to ensure the state has reliable electricity, something we should never take for granted, given the enormous economic and public safety ramifications.

Vermont Yankee provides many important benefits to Vermont. It should receive license renewal so that it can continue to serve the state.”

*Editor’s Notes: Thomas P. Salmon is a former Governor of Vermont, former President of the University of Vermont, founding member of the Vermont Energy Partnership, and a former Chair of Green Mountain Power Company.*

*The Vermont Energy Partnership ([www.vtep.org](http://www.vtep.org)) is a diverse group of more than 95 business, labor, and community leaders committed to finding clean, affordable and reliable electricity solutions. Its mission is to educate policy makers, the media, businesses, and the general public about why electricity is imperative for prosperity, and about the optimal solutions to preserve and expand our electricity network. Entergy, owner of Vermont Yankee, is a member of the Vermont Energy Partnership.*