**Text 2**

①A deal is a deal—except, apparently, when Entergy is involved. ②The company, a major energy supplier in New England, provoked justified outrage in Vermont last week when it announced it was reneging on a longstanding commitment to abide by the state’s strict nuclear regulations.

协议就是协议，但Entergy是个例外。这个公司在New England是一个巨大的能源供应商，上周在Vermont宣布它将违背“坚持该州严格的核规则”的长期协定，这激起了理所应当的愤怒。

deal 协议

apparently 显然的

justified 有正当理由的

abide by sth. 坚守...

①Instead, the company has done precisely what it had long promised it would not: challenge the constitutionality of Vermont’s rules in the federal court, as part of a desperate effort to keep its Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant running. ②It’s a stunning move.

取而代之的是，这个公司精准的做了它长久以来承诺不会去做的事：作为保住它在Vermont Yankee的核能源计划，它在联邦法院质疑Vermont的规则是否符合宪法。这是一个令人震惊的举动。

constitutionality 符合宪法

stunning 令人震惊的

①The conflict has been surfacing since 2002, when the corporation bought Vermont’s only nuclear power plant, an aging reactor in Vernon. ②As a condition of receiving state approval for the sale, the company agreed to seek permission from state regulators to operate past 2012. ③In 2006, the state went a step further, requiring that any extension of the plant’s license be subject to the Vermont legislature’s approval. ④Then, too, the company went along.

矛盾自2002年开始显现，当时这家公司想要购买Vermont唯一的核能计划，一个年久的核反应堆。该公司同意2012年后从州政府申请操作的许可，这是政府同意这个交易的条件。2006年，州政府更进一步，要求任何该计划许可的延期都必须取得Vermont立法机构的同意。这个公司也同意了。

extension 延期

①Either Entergy never really intended to live by those commitments, or it simply didn’t foresee what would happen next. ②A string of accidents, including the partial collapse of a cooling tower in 2007 and the discovery of an underground pipe system leakage, raised serious questions about both Vermont Yankee’s safety and Entergy’s management—especially after the company made misleading statements about the pipe. ③Enraged by Entergy’s behavior, the Vermont Senate voted 26 to 4 last year against allowing an extension.

Entergy从未想过遵守这些协议，或者它没有遇见将要发生什么。一系列的事故，包括2007年部分冷凝管倒塌和地下管道泄漏，暴露出Vermont Yankee的安全和Entergy的管理的严重问题，特别是在这个公司做出关于管道误导性的声明之后。愤怒于Entergy的行为，Vermont Senate以26比4拒绝明年的延期。

①Now the company is suddenly claiming that the 2002 agreement is invalid because of the 2006 legislation, and that only the federal government has regulatory power over nuclear issues. ②The legal issues in the case are obscure: whereas the Supreme Court has ruled that states do have some regulatory authority over nuclear power, legal scholars say the Vermont case will offer a precedent-setting test of how far those powers extend. ③Certainly, there are valid concerns about the patchwork regulations that could result if every state sets its own rules. ④But had Entergy kept its word, that debate would be beside the point.

现在这个公司突然因为2006年的法律宣布2002年的协议无效，只有联邦政府有管理核问题的权利。这个案例中的法律问题是模糊的：最高法院规定州政府有某些管理核的权利，法律学者说Vermont的案例将提供一个关于这些权利具体有多大的先例。如果每个州都有它自己的规则，对布丁规则的担忧也是合理的。

valid 合理的

①The company seems to have concluded that its reputation in Vermont is already so damaged that it has nothing left to lose by going to war with the state. ②But there should be consequences. ③Permission to run a nuclear plant is a public trust. ④Entergy runs 11 other reactors in the United States, including Pilgrim Nuclear station in Plymouth. ⑤Pledging to run Pilgrim safely, the company has applied for federal permission to keep it open for another 20 years. ⑥But as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) reviews the company’s application, it should keep in mind what promises from Entergy are worth.

这个公司似乎已经得出“他在Vermont的名声已经快掉了，和州政府战斗已经没有什么好失去的了”的结论。但应该有个结果。允许运营和计划是公众信任。Entergy在美国运营了11个其他的核反应堆，包括在Plymouth的Pilgrim Nuclear。为了保证Pilgrim安全运行，该公司已经向联邦政府申请再运行20年。但是NRC审核该公司的申请时，应该考虑Entergy的什么承诺是有价值的。

26. The phrase “reneging on” (Para. 1) is closest in meaning to

[A] condemning.

[B] reaffirming.

[C] dishonoring.

[D] securing.

27. By entering into the 2002 agreement, Entergy intended to

[A] obtain protection from Vermont regulators.

[B] seek favor from the federal legislature.

[C] acquire an extension of its business license.

[D] get permission to purchase a power plant.

28. According to Paragraph 4, Entergy seems to have problems with its

[A] managerial practices.

[B] technical innovativeness.

[C] financial goals.

[D] business vision.

29. In the author’s view, the Vermont case will test

[A] Entergy’s capacity to fulfill all its promises.

[B] the nature of states’ patchwork regulations.

[C] the federal authority over nuclear issues.

[D] the limits of states’ power over nuclear issues.

30. It can be inferred from the last paragraph that

[A] Entergy’s business elsewhere might be affected.

[B] the authority of the NRC will be defied.

[C] Entergy will withdraw its Plymouth application.

[D] Vermont’s reputation might be damaged.