

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Public Affairs, Region I
475 Allendale Road King of Prussia, PA 19406
Fax: 610/337-5241
Internet: dps@nrc.gov or nas@nrc.gov

I-98-131

Contact:

Diane Screnci (610/337-5330)
Neil A. Sheehan (610/337-5331)

December 15, 1998

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOTE TO EDITORS:

Plans for the long-term storage of spent fuel at the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon, Vt., will be discussed by Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff and plant representatives on Thursday, December 17. The meeting, which will be open to the public, is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. in Room 4-B-6 at NRC Headquarters, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Md.

Vermont Yankee, which is operated by the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation, petitioned the NRC earlier this year for approval to increase the capacity of its spent fuel storage pool. By installing three new stainless-steel racks in the pool, the plant would be able to store up to 3,355 fuel assemblies, versus its current limit of 2,870 assemblies.

At the meeting, plant representatives will answer preliminary questions from NRC staff regarding the request.

A final NRC decision on the request is not expected for about another year.

A boiling-water reactor, Vermont Yankee is licensed by the NRC to operate until March 2012.

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