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NRC ADVISORY PANEL SUBCOMMITTEE TO MEET IN BRATTLEBORO, VT., ON NOV. 15-16 TO DISCUSS VERMONT YANKEE PROPOSED POWER UPRATE

A subcommittee of a Nuclear Regulatory Commission advisory panel will review the power uprate proposed for the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant on Tuesday, Nov. 15, and Wednesday, Nov. 16, in Brattleboro, Vt. The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) sessions are scheduled for 8:30 a.m. until about 5:30 p.m. both days at the Quality Inn and Suites, at 1380 Putney Road.

Entergy, the company which owns and operates Vermont Yankee, has proposed a 20-percent increase in power for the plant, located in Vernon, Vt. The NRC staff is continuing to review the proposal. As it does with all power uprate applications of this size, the ACRS – an independent body of experts that, among other duties, reviews and reports on reactor safety studies, license-renewal applications and certain license-amendment requests – will assess the proposal and offer its recommendations.

During the meeting in Brattleboro, the ACRS Subcommittee on Power Uprates will hear presentations by, and hold discussions with, NRC staff members, agency contractors, Entergy representatives and other individuals interested in this matter. The panel will gather information, analyze relevant issues and facts, and formulate proposed positions and actions, as appropriate, for deliberation by the full committee. The ACRS is independent of the NRC staff and reports directly to the Commission.

Members of the public interested in making oral statements are asked to contact Ralph Caruso of the ACRS at least five days prior to the sessions. He can be reached at 301-415-8065 or via e-mail at RXC@NRC.GOV. Also, there will be a sign-up sheet at the meeting for those who do not provide advance notification of their intention to offer comments. The panel will try to accommodate as many of those speakers as possible within the time limits of the meeting. There will also be an opportunity to submit written comments. Electronic recordings of the meeting will be permitted. However, signs will not be allowed in the meeting room.

Further information regarding the meeting is available from Mr. Caruso at the phone number and e-mail address listed above.

In addition to the Brattleboro sessions, the ACRS subcommittee expects to consider the Vermont Yankee power uprate application on Nov. 29-30 at the NRC Headquarters in Rockville, Md. The full committee will consider the application on Dec. 8. Some portions of those meetings may be closed to the public during discussions involving proprietary information.

In line with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the ACRS provides a forum where experts representing many technical perspectives can provide independent advice that is factored into the Commission's decision-making process. The ACRS consists of 11 individuals with a wide variety of engineering expertise. At present, the kinds of expertise provided by panel members cover such areas as nuclear, mechanical, civil and electrical engineering; risk assessment; chemistry; materials science and metallurgy; and thermal-hydraulics and heat transfer.

Additional information about the ACRS, including meeting dates and times, is available at: <http://www.nrc.gov/what-we-do/regulatory/advisory/acrs.html>

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