

From: Allen Howe *NRR*
To: *B* Anderson, Cliff; Ennis, Rick; Holden, Cornelius; Holian, Brian; Pelton, David; Richards, Stuart; Ruland, William; Screnci, Diane
Date: 06/30/2004 9:46AM
Subject: Draft Weekly highlight for comment

Please have any comments by 11 am today.

Thanks - Allen

NRC Meeting with the Vermont Public Service Board

On June 28, 2004, NRR and Region I staff met with the Vermont Public Service Board (PSB) regarding Vermont Yankee's request for a 20% extended power uprate. The NRC staff described NRC's uprate review process and the pilot engineering inspection slated for Vermont Yankee in August. Overall, the meeting provided a good forum for describing the scope and depth of the NRC's power uprate review process. The PSB and NRC discussed the criteria for the independence of the inspection team performing the engineering inspection e.g. contractors supporting the inspection have not been employed by Entergy or Vermont Yankee and no recent contract work and the NRC inspectors and team leader will not be current or former resident inspectors at Vermont Yankee and have not performed recent engineering inspections at Vermont Yankee. Regarding discussion on a member of the public observing, or participating in the engineering inspection, the staff described the public nature of the inspection process, that the engineering inspection would have a state observer, and that the exit meeting would be public. The PSB also expressed interest in the ability of the NRC's inspections and reviews to assess the impacts of the uprate on reliability and on precluding operational issues experienced at Quad Cities after its uprate. NRC staff explained that the steam dryer integrity and flow-induced vibration issues were getting a lot of attention by the NRC and are probably the biggest technical challenges associated with power uprates at this time.

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