

April 12, 2006

Mr. Michael Kansler  
President  
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.  
440 Hamilton Avenue  
White Plains, NY 10601

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND CONDUCT SCOPING PROCESS FOR LICENSE RENEWAL FOR THE VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION (TAC NO. MC9670)

Dear Mr. Kansler:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has received your application dated January 25, 2006, as supplemented by letter dated March 15, 2006, for the renewal of the Operating License No. DPR-28 for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (VYNPS). In support of the application and in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 51 and 10 CFR Part 54, Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (Entergy) submitted an environmental report (ER). This letter provides information related to the staff's review of the VYNPS ER.

The NRC has prepared a Notice of Intent advising the public that the NRC intends to gather information necessary to prepare a plant-specific supplement to the Commission's "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants," (NUREG-1437) related to the review of the application for the renewal of the VYNPS operating license. Enclosed is a copy of the Notice of Intent, which has been forwarded to the Office of the *Federal Register* for publication.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.28, Entergy is invited to participate in the environmental scoping process. As discussed in the enclosed notice, the staff is providing the public with the opportunity to participate in two environmental scoping meetings to be held Wednesday, June 7, 2006. The meetings will be held at the Latchis Theatre, 50 Main Street, Brattleboro, Vermont 05301. The first session will be held in the afternoon, and the second session, covering the same subjects, will be held in the evening. The NRC will present an overview of the environmental review process and will describe how the process will be implemented for the review of the VYNPS license renewal application. Entergy is invited to participate in both sessions of the meeting by providing a brief description of the proposed action and the ER submitted as part of the application for license renewal.

In addition to the environmental scoping meeting described above, the NRC will hold an informal open house at the Quality Inn & Suites, 1380 Putney Road, Brattleboro, Vermont 05301, on Tuesday, June 6, 2006, from 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm. At the open house, NRC staff will be available to provide information about the environmental review process for license renewal.

M. Kansler

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During the open house, members of the public will have the opportunity to discuss the environmental review process and any issues informally with members of the NRC staff and to provide formal comments on the proposed scope of the supplement to the GEIS to a transcriptionist. Entergy is invited to attend the open house as a member of the public.

A separate NRC meeting notice with a more detailed agenda is forthcoming. You will be provided a copy of that notice.

In the interim, should you have any questions regarding the scoping meeting or the open house, please contact the NRC's Environmental Project Manager, Mr. Richard L. Emch Jr., at 301-415-1590 or by e-mail at [RLE@nrc.gov](mailto:RLE@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Rani Franovich, Branch Chief  
Environmental Branch B  
Division of License Renewal  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-271

Enclosure:  
Federal Register Notice

cc w/enclosure: See next page

M. Kansler

-2-

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Sincerely,  
/RA/  
Rani Franovich, Branch Chief  
Environmental Branch B  
Division of License Renewal  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Enclosure:  
Federal Register Notice

cc w/enclosure: See next page

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DATE	04/5/06	04/5/06	04/5/06	04/11/06	04/12/06

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Letter to: Michael Kansler, from Burke Purnell, dated: April 12, 2006

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND CONDUCT SCOPING PROCESS FOR LICENSE RENEWAL FOR THE VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION (TAC NO. MC9670)

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
ENTERGY NUCLEAR OPERATIONS, INC.  
VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION  
NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT AND CONDUCT SCOPING PROCESS  
DOCKET NO. 50-271

Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (Entergy) has submitted an application for renewal of Facility Operating License No. DPR-28 for an additional 20 years of operation at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (VYNPS). VYNPS is located in the town of Vernon, Vermont, in Windham County on the west shore of the Connecticut River immediately upstream of the Vernon Hydroelectric Station.

The operating license for VYNPS expires on March 21, 2012. The application for renewal, dated January 25, 2006, as supplemented by letter dated March 15, 2006, was submitted pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 54. A notice of receipt and availability of the application, which included the environmental report (ER), was published in the *Federal Register* on February 6, 2006 (71 FR 6102). A notice of acceptance for docketing of the application for renewal of the facility operating license was published in the *Federal Register* on March 27, 2006, (71 FR 15220). The purpose of this notice is to inform the public that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will be preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) related to the review of the license renewal application and to provide the public an opportunity to participate in the environmental scoping process, as defined in 10 CFR 51.29. In addition, as outlined in 36 CFR 800.8, "Coordination with the National Environmental Policy Act," the NRC plans to coordinate compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act in meeting the requirements of the National Environmental

Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

In accordance with 10 CFR 51.53(c) and 10 CFR 54.23, Entergy submitted the ER as part of the application. The ER was prepared pursuant to 10 CFR Part 51 and is publicly available at the NRC Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, 20852, or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). The ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room is accessible at <http://adamswebsearch.nrc.gov/dologin.htm>. The Accession Number for the ER is ML060300086. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS, or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, should contact the NRC's PDR reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209, or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail at [pdr@nrc.gov](mailto:pdr@nrc.gov). The ER may also be viewed on the Internet at

[www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/vermont-yankee.html](http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/vermont-yankee.html). In addition, the ER is available for public inspection near the VYNPS at the following four public libraries: Vernon Free Library, 567 Governor Hunt Rd, Vernon, VT 05354; Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301; Hinsdale Public Library, 122 Brattleboro Road, Hinsdale, NH, 03451; and Dickinson Memorial Library, 115 Main St, Northfield, MA 01360.

This notice advises the public that the NRC intends to gather the information necessary to prepare a plant-specific supplement to the Commission's "Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants," (NUREG-1437) related to the review of the application for renewal of the VYNPS operating license for an additional 20 years. Possible alternatives to the proposed action (license renewal) include no action and reasonable alternative energy sources. The NRC is required by 10 CFR 51.95 to prepare a supplement to the GEIS in connection with the renewal of an operating license. This notice is being published in accordance with NEPA and the NRC's regulations found in 10 CFR Part 51.

The NRC will first conduct a scoping process for the supplement to the GEIS and, as soon as practicable thereafter, will prepare a draft supplement to the GEIS for public comment. Participation in the scoping process by members of the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal government agencies is encouraged. The scoping process for the supplement to the GEIS will be used to accomplish the following:

- a. Define the proposed action which is to be the subject of the supplement to the GEIS.
- b. Determine the scope of the supplement to the GEIS and identify the significant issues to be analyzed in depth.
- c. Identify and eliminate from detailed study those issues that are peripheral or that are not significant.
- d. Identify any environmental assessments and other EISs that are being or will be prepared that are related to, but are not part of, the scope of the supplement to the GEIS being considered.
- e. Identify other environmental review and consultation requirements related to the proposed action.
- f. Indicate the relationship between the timing of the preparation of the environmental analyses and the Commission's tentative planning and decision-making schedule.
- g. Identify any cooperating agencies and, as appropriate, allocate assignments for preparation and schedules for completing the supplement to the GEIS to the NRC and any cooperating agencies.
- h. Describe how the supplement to the GEIS will be prepared, and include any contractor assistance to be used.

The NRC invites the following entities to participate in scoping:

- a. The applicant, Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
- b. Any Federal agency that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to

any environmental impact involved, or that is authorized to develop and enforce relevant environmental standards.

- c. Affected State and local government agencies, including those authorized to develop and enforce relevant environmental standards.
- d. Any affected Indian tribe.
- e. Any person who requests or has requested an opportunity to participate in the scoping process.
- f. Any person who has petitioned or intends to petition for leave to intervene.

In accordance with 10 CFR 51.26, the scoping process for an EIS may include a public scoping meeting to help identify significant issues related to a proposed activity and to determine the scope of issues to be addressed in an EIS. The NRC has decided to hold public meetings for the VYNPS license renewal supplement to the GEIS. The scoping meetings will be held at the Latchis Theatre, 50 Main Street, Brattleboro, Vermont 05301, on Wednesday, June 7, 2006. There will be two sessions to accommodate interested parties. The first session will convene at 1:30 p.m. and will continue until 4:30 p.m., as necessary. The second session will convene at 7:00 p.m. with a repeat of the overview portions of the meeting and will continue until 10:00 p.m., as necessary. Both meetings will be transcribed and will include: (1) an overview by the NRC staff of the NEPA environmental review process, the proposed scope of the supplement to the GEIS, and the proposed review schedule; and (2) the opportunity for interested government agencies, organizations, and individuals to submit comments or suggestions on the environmental issues or the proposed scope of the supplement to the GEIS. Additionally, the NRC staff will host informal discussions one hour prior to the start of each session at the same location. No formal comments on the proposed scope of the supplement to the GEIS will be accepted during the informal discussions. To be considered, comments must be provided either at the transcribed public meetings or in writing, as discussed below.

Persons may register to attend or present oral comments at the meetings on the scope of the NEPA review by contacting the NRC Environmental Project Manager, Mr. Richard L. Emch Jr., by telephone at 1-800-368-5642, extension 1590, or by e-mail to the NRC at [RLE@nrc.gov](mailto:RLE@nrc.gov) no later than May 31, 2006. Members of the public may also register to speak at the meeting within 15 minutes of the start of each session. Individual oral comments may be limited by the time available, depending on the number of persons who register. Members of the public who have not registered may also have an opportunity to speak, if time permits. Public comments will be considered in the scoping process for the supplement to the GEIS. Mr. Emch will need to be contacted no later than May 24, 2006, if special equipment or accommodations are needed to attend or present information at the public meeting, so that the NRC staff can determine whether the request can be accommodated.

In addition to the environmental scoping meeting described above, the NRC will hold an informal open house at the Quality Inn & Suites, 1380 Putney Road, Brattleboro, Vermont 05301, on Tuesday, June 6, 2006, from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., as necessary. At the open house, NRC staff will be available to provide information about the environmental review process for license renewal of nuclear plants. During the open house, members of the public will have the opportunity to provide formal comments on the proposed scope of the supplement to the GEIS either verbally or in writing to a transcriptionist. Comments provided to the transcriptionist will be considered in the same manner as comments provided during the scoping meetings described above. No formal comments on the proposed scope of the supplement to the GEIS will be accepted at the open house during informal discussions.

Members of the public may send written comments on the environmental scope of the VYNPS license renewal review to: Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, Mailstop T-6D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C., 20555-0001, and should cite the publication date and page

number of this *Federal Register* notice. Comments may also be delivered to the NRC, Room T-6D59, Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, 20852, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. during Federal workdays. To be considered in the scoping process, written comments should be postmarked by June 23, 2006. Electronic comments may be sent by e-mail to the NRC at [VermontYankeeEIS@nrc.gov](mailto:VermontYankeeEIS@nrc.gov), and should be sent no later than June 23, 2006, to be considered in the scoping process. Comments will be available electronically and accessible through ADAMS at <http://adamswebsearch.nrc.gov/dologin.htm>.

Participation in the scoping process for the supplement to the GEIS does not entitle participants to become parties to the proceeding to which the supplement to the GEIS relates. Notice of opportunity for a hearing regarding the renewal application was the subject of the aforementioned *Federal Register* notice (71 FR 15220). Matters related to participation in any hearing are outside the scope of matters to be discussed at this public meeting.

At the conclusion of the scoping process, the NRC will prepare a concise summary of the determination and conclusions reached, including the significant issues identified, and will send a copy of the summary to each participant in the scoping process. The summary will also be available for inspection in ADAMS at <http://adamswebsearch.nrc.gov/dologin.htm>. The staff will then prepare and issue for comment the draft supplement to the GEIS, which will be the subject of separate notices and separate public meetings. Copies will be available for public inspection at the above-mentioned addresses, and one copy per request will be provided free of charge. After receipt and consideration of the comments, the NRC will prepare a final supplement to the GEIS, which will also be available for public inspection.

Information about the proposed action, the supplement to the GEIS, and the scoping process may be obtained from Mr. Emch at the aforementioned telephone number or e-mail address.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 12 day of April 2006.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

Rani Franovich, Branch Chief  
Environmental Branch B  
Division of License Renewal  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station

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