

May 10, 2006

MEMORANDUM TO: Rani L. Franovich, Branch Chief
Environmental Branch B
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Richard L. Emch Jr., Senior Project Manager /RA/
Environmental Branch B
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: FORTHCOMING MEETING TO DISCUSS THE ENVIRONMENTAL
SCOPING PROCESS FOR VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER
STATION (VYNPS), LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION (LRA)

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, June 7, 2006, (Two identical sessions)
First session: 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Second session: 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Latchis Theatre
50 Main Street
Brattleboro, VT 05301

CATEGORY 3:* This is a Category 3 Meeting. The public is invited to participate in this meeting by providing comments and asking questions throughout the meeting.

PURPOSE: To discuss the environmental scoping process for the LRA for VYNPS. These meetings will provide members of the public with the opportunity to provide comments regarding environmental issues that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) should consider during its review of the LRA. These meetings are being conducted as part of the scoping process outlined in 10 CFR Part 51 to support development of an environmental impact statement related to the LRA. See the enclosed Agenda and *Federal Register* notice (71 FR 20733). The LRA is available on the NRC's Web page at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/vermont-yankee.html> and in ADAMS (Accession Number ML060300086).

CONTACTS: Richard Emch, NRR
301-415-1590 Samuel Hernandez, NRR
301-415-4049

* Commission's Policy Statement on "Enhancing Public Participation in NRC Meetings," 67 *Federal Register* 36920, May 28, 2002.

PURPOSE (Cont.): RLE@NRC.GOV SHQ@NRC.GOV
Both formal sessions will be preceded by an informal "open house" beginning one hour prior to each session for those who wish to attend. The open house will provide members of the public with an opportunity to talk informally one-on-one with NRC staff. Members of the public may register to present oral comments at this meeting by contacting Mr. Emch at 800-368-5642, ext. 1590, or via e-mail at RLE@nrc.gov by May 31, 2006. Those who wish to make comments may also register 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.

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.- 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 houses during informal discussions with the staff.

ACCOMMODATIONS: If special equipment or accommodations are needed to attend or present information at the public meeting, the need should be brought to the attention of Mr. Emch at 800-368-5642, ext. 1590 or via e-mail at RLE@nrc.gov, no later than May 24, 2006, to provide the NRC staff adequate notice to determine whether the request can be accommodated.

PARTICIPANTS: NRC Members of the Public Who Register to Speak
F. Cameron
R. Franovich
R. Emch
et. al

Argonne National Laboratory
D. Miller
et. al

Docket No. 50-271

Enclosures:

1. Agenda
2. *Federal Register* Notice

cc w/encls: See next page

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cc w/encls: See next page

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DATE	5/10/06	5/10/06	5/10/06	5/1006

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Memo to: Rani L. Franovich from Richard L. Emch, dated: May 10, 2006

SUBJECT: FORTHCOMING MEETING TO DISCUSS THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING
PROCESS FOR VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION (VYNPS),
LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION (LRA)

Hard Copy

S. Hernandez

R. Emch

E-Mail

Public

PMNS

B. Boger (RidsNrrAdro)

F. Gillespie / P.T. Kuo (RidsNrrDlr)

R. Franovich (RidsNrrDlrRebb)

R. Emch

R. Schaaf

S. Hernandez

A. Mullins

S. Hoffman

D. Miller (david.s.miller@anl.gov)

F. Cameron, OGC

OGC (RidsOGCMailRoom)

M. Lemoncelli, OGC

J. Eads

J. Shea

R. Shane, OCA

B. Keeling, OCA

T. Combs, OCA

OPA (RidsOpaMail)

D. McIntyre, OPA

C. Anderson, RI

D. Pelton, RI

B. Sienel, RI

N. Sheehan, RI

D. Screnci, RI

R. Jasinski, NRR Technical Communications Assistant

Samuel Lee, EDO Contact, RI

C. Colleli, OIG

R. Wild, OIG

J. Storch, OIG

DLR Staff

**AGENDA FOR PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS
ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING PROCESS FOR VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER
STATION, LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2006

Two Meeting Sessions - 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.*

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| I. Welcome and Purpose of Meeting | 15 minutes (F. Cameron) |
| II. Overview of License Renewal Process | 10 minutes (R. Franovich) |
| III. Overview of Environmental Review Process | 20 minutes (R. Emch) |
| IV. Public Comments | As Required (F. Cameron) |
| V. Closing/Availability of Transcripts | 5 minutes (F. Cameron) |

*The NRC staff will host informal discussions one hour prior to each meeting session. No formal comments on the proposed scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be accepted during the informal discussions. To be considered, comments must be provided either at the transcribed public meetings (see agenda, above) or in writing, as described in the attached *Federal Register* notice.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-271]

Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.; Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Conduct Scoping Process

Energy 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 in 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 <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.

Enclosure 2

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:

- i. The applicant, Energy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
- j. 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.
- k. Affected State and local government agencies, including those authorized to develop and enforce relevant environmental standards.
- l. Any affected Indian tribe.
- m. Any person who requests or has requested an opportunity to participate in the scoping process.
- v. 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 p.m. with a repeat of the overview portions of the meeting and will continue until 10 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 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 p.m. to 8 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, DC, 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, 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 12th day of April 2006.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
Rani Franovich,
Branch Chief, Environmental Branch B, Division of License Renewal,
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station

cc:

Regional Administrator, Region I
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1415

Mr. David R. Lewis
Pillsbury, Winthrop, Shaw, Pittman, LLP
2300 N Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20037-1128

Mr. David O'Brien, Commissioner
Vermont Department of Public Service
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2601

Mr. James Volz, Chairman
Public Service Board
State of Vermont
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

Operating Experience Coordinator
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station
320 Governor Hunt Road
Vernon, VT 05354

Mr. G. Dana Bisbee, Esq.
Deputy Attorney General
33 Capitol Street
Concord, NH 03301-6937

Chief, Safety Unit
Office of the Attorney General
One Ashburton Place, 19th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Ms. Deborah B. Katz
Box 83
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

Ms. Carla A. White, RRPT, CHP
Radiological Health
Vermont Department of Health
P.O. Box 70, Drawer #43
108 Cherry Street
Burlington, VT 05402-0070

Mr. James M. DeVincentis
Manager, Licensing
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station
P.O. Box 0500
185 Old Ferry Road
Brattleboro, VT 05302-0500

Resident Inspector
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P.O. Box 176
Vernon, VT 05354

Director, Massachusetts Emergency
Management Agency
ATTN: James Muckerheide
400 Worcester Rd.
Framingham, MA 01702-5399

Mr. Jonathan M. Block, Esq.
Main Street
P.O. Box 566
Putney, VT 05346-0566

Mr. John F. McCann
Director, Licensing
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
440 Hamilton Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601

Mr. Gary J. Taylor
Chief Executive Officer
Entergy Operations
1340 Echelon Parkway
Jackson, MS 39213

Mr. John T. Herron
Sr. VP and Chief Operating Officer
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
440 Hamilton Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601

cc:

Mr. Oscar Limpias
Vice President, Engineering
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
440 Hamilton Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601

Mr. Christopher Schwartz
Vice President, Operations Support
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
440 Hamilton Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601

Mr. Michael J. Colomb
Director of Oversight
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
440 Hamilton Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601

Mr. Travis C. McCullough
Assistant General Counsel
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
440 Hamilton Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601

Mr. Jay K. Thayer
Site Vice President
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station
P.O. Box 0500
185 Old Ferry Road
Brattleboro, VT 05302-0500

Mr. James H. Sniezek
5486 Nithsdale Drive
Salisbury, MD 21801

Ms. Stacey M. Lousteau
Treasury Department
Entergy Services, Inc.
639 Loyola Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70113

Mr. Raymond Shadis
New England Coalition
Post Office Box 98
Edgecomb, ME 04556

Mr. James P. Matteau
Executive Director
Windham Regional Commission
139 Main Street, Suite 505
Brattleboro, VT 05301

Mr. William K. Sherman
Vermont Department of Public Service
112 State Street
Drawer 20
Montpelier, VT 05620-2601

Mr. Michael D. Lyster
5931 Barclay Lane
Naples, FL 34110-7306

Ms. Charlene D. Faison
Manager, Licensing
440 Hamilton Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601

Mr. James Ross
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Mr. Peter Deyo
Chairman, Vernon Select Board
567 Governor Hunt Road
Vernon, VT 05354

Mr. Jerry Remillard
Brattleboro Town Manager
230 Main Street, Suite 208
Brattleboro, VT 05301

Mr. Steven A. Steidle
Chair, Brattleboro Select Board
108 Meetinghouse Lane
Brattleboro, VT 05301-8985

Sen. Roderick M. Gander
Senator, Windham District
43 Tyler Street
Brattleboro, VT 05301

cc:

Sen. Jeanette K. White
Senator, Windham District
35A Old Depot Road
Putney, VT 05346

Mr. Ed Anthes
Vermont Nuclear Free by 2012
PO Box 6325
Brattleboro, VT 05302

Mr. John D. Smith
Chairman Board of Selectmen
PO Box 13
Hinsdale, NH 03451

Ms. Diana Sidebotham
The New England Coalition
PO Box 545
Brattleboro, VT 05302