



NRC NEWS

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NRC RECEIVES ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, EXTENDS REVIEW FOR VERMONT YANKEE LICENSE RENEWAL

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff is revising its schedule for issuing a Safety Evaluation Report (SER) for the license renewal application from the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, about 5 miles south of Brattleboro, Vt.

The NRC staff's inspections and ongoing review of the application have led plant operator Entergy Nuclear Northeast to add information on more than two dozen systems to those already covered by a preliminary SER. Because of this late change to the renewal application, NRC staff will not issue a complete SER on Aug. 1 as initially scheduled.

"This change will add at least two months to the review," said Jim Dyer, Director of the NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. "We'll set a formal new schedule for completing our work and reaching an overall decision on Vermont Yankee's license renewal after we receive all of Entergy's additional information."

Entergy filed the renewal application on Jan. 27, 2006, and if approved, Vermont Yankee's license would be extended 20 years. The plant's current license expires March 21, 2012. The NRC staff expects to issue a final Environmental Impact Statement on the renewal application in the near future. In addition to the staff's work, the NRC's independent Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards must issue a report on the application, and an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel must conclude a hearing on the application before the staff can reach a final conclusion on renewing the plant's license. More information on the review is available on the NRC's Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/vermont-yankee.html>.

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