

**From:** James Clifford  
**To:** Dapas, Marc  
**Date:** 09/07/2007 12:56:55 PM  
**Subject:** Summary of briefing with Vermont Congressional delegation

Marc,

Attached is our summary from yesterday's briefing - vetted with attendees (except for Stu Richards).

Jim

**CC:** Conte, Richard; Gamberoni, Marsha; Kuo, Pao-Tsin; Lew, David; Norris, Barry; Powell, Raymond; Richards, Stuart; Roberts, Darrell; Shane, Raeann; Sieller, Nicole

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Summary of call with Congressional Staff  
Regarding Vermont Yankee cooling towers

- Staff from Region I (DRP, State Liaison, Communications Specialist), NRR Inspection Program staff (Stu Richards), and OCA (Raeann Shane) conducted a briefing for Congressional staff from Sen. Sanders and Cong. Welch's offices.
- The discussion focused on the staffers' questions on NRC regulatory oversight of the Vermont Yankee cooling towers, and whether there were any requirements for ongoing inspection of the cooling towers.
- Associated questions were focused on any potential nexus between NRC license renewal inspection activities and the recent failure of a non-safety related cell in one of two cooling towers. This included questions about the NRC's August 29, 2007, letter requesting additional information about the validity of the licensee's license renewal scoping analysis in light of the cooling tower failure.
- Questions related to how the license renewal scope is determined, including how a licensee/applicant knows what to include in an application.
- Sen. Sanders' staff expressed their dismay at the NRC not providing a copy of the 8/29/07 letter directly to them.
- The NRC staff provided:
  - background information on the general scope and conduct of the inspection program, including focus on safety-related systems and components and the audit nature of the inspection program
  - information on specific scope of NRC inspection responsibilities for the VY cooling towers, and recent NRC inspections conducted for the safety-related cell
  - a high level overview of the licensing process, including NRC guidance documents that outline the information provided, the types of activities a licensee goes through to analyze and develop a license/amendment application, with a similar discussion of NRC review activities.
- There were a number of take-aways
  - Followup discussion on the license renewal process, including how scoping is accomplished
  - Commitment to ensure NRC correspondence that is likely to be of interest is provided by the staff to the Vermont Congressional delegation
  - Commitment to review potential concern with an imbalance between the horsepower of motors used for the cooling tower fans (raised in testimony before the Vermont DEC by A. Gunderson)
  - Response to specific questions (a list is currently being developed)
- The NRC staff also committed to conduct a followup call to discuss license renewal issues in more detail.