

September 20, 2013

The Honorable Michael B. Kaplowitz
Legislator, 4th District
Westchester County Board of Legislators
26 Lalli Drive
Katonah, NY 10536

Dear Legislator Kaplowitz:

Thank you for your July 18, 2013, letter requesting that transcripts or audio recordings be provided for Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) local public meetings. We appreciate that you have taken the time to write and we value your input.

The NRC takes transparency and openness very seriously. Since we convene hundreds of public meetings annually we must balance the agency's commitment to openness with attention to our fiscal responsibilities. While a number of our meetings are transcribed or recorded, creating transcripts or sound recordings of all NRC's public meetings is not financially justifiable. We do have a long-standing policy to prepare a high-level summary for virtually all the meetings that are not transcribed or recorded.

The principal considerations for preparing a recording or transcript of an NRC meeting are the purpose and type of the meeting and whether the public will participate directly. The following examples illustrate our application of these considerations:

- In cases where we are accepting official comments under one of our regulatory processes, such as environmental scoping, the NRC creates and shares an official transcript of the meeting.
- We webstream certain meetings we believe will have heightened interest so the public can observe the meeting online. In these cases, we capture the video of the meeting and post it to our website.
- We frequently use other participation technologies such as GoToMeeting and teleconference bridgelines to increase the ways members of the public can participate in our public meetings. In these cases, we often are able to take advantage of the recording options available and then share the recordings.

Finally, this autumn, we will launch a new Public Meeting Notice System, which will provide additional information about our public meetings. The system will make it easier for members of the public to be notified of meetings and access all post-meeting information, including any transcripts, audio and video recordings, and meeting summaries. We expect these measures to further enhance our efforts to productively engage and inform the public. We will continue to explore additional means to do so.

Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Allison M. Macfarlane

Identical letter sent to:

Michael B. Kaplowitz
Legislator, 4th District
Westchester County Board of Legislators
26 Lalli Drive
Katonah, NY 10536

Catherine Borgia
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