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Docket: NRC-2019-0073

Agency Activities in Response to a Portion of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act

Comment On: NRC-2019-0073-0001

Agency Activities in Response to a Portion of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act

Document: NRC-2019-0073-DRAFT-0014

Comment on FR Doc # 2019-04960

Submitter Information

Name: Anthony Leshinskie

Submitter's Representative: Anthony Leshinskie

Organization: Vermont Public Service Department

Government Agency Type: State

Government Agency: Vermont Public Service Department

General Comment

Please see the attached letter from the Vermont Public Service Department on behalf of the State of Vermont requesting a Nuclear Regulator Commission Category 3 Public Meeting discussing best practices in creating and managing Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panels (in compliance with Section 108 of NEIMA). This request is made in response Federal Register Notification NRC-2019-0073, dated March 18, 2019.

The requested meeting location would be in either Brattleboro or Vernon, VT, both of which are within the former Emergency Planning Zone for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station, which is now undergoing active decommissioning.

Attachments

Request for a Public Meeting in Vermont per Docket NRC-2019-0073.4.9.19

State of Vermont**Department of Public Service**

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April 9, 2019

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Washington, DC 20555-0001

RE: Request for a Public Meeting in Vermont per Docket NRC-2019-0073 Agency Activities in Response to a Portion of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act

Dear Administrators:

As the Commissioner for the Vermont Department of Public Service, I am writing to request that a public meeting be held in the Vernon / Brattleboro, Vermont area as part of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's ("NRC") activities to implement the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act ("NEIMA"). The NEIMA activities include developing a report that will identify best practices for establishing and operating local community advisory boards associated with nuclear power plant decommissioning, including lessons learned from existing community boards. This request is in response to the Federal Register Notification published on March 18, 2019 with Docket ID NRC-2019-0073.

The Vernon / Brattleboro, Vermont area meets the Federal Register Notification's description of a preferred meeting location in that:

1. It hosts the former Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station ("VYNPS"), which is currently undergoing active decommissioning;
2. The Vernon / Brattleboro, Vermont area is within the former Emergency Planning Zone ("EPZ") for VYNPS;
3. An established decommissioning community advisory board, the Vermont Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel ("VT NDCAP"), has regularly met within the area since September 2014;
4. VT NDCAP meetings routinely attract members of the public from other former VYNPS EPZ towns, including Guildford and Putney, Vermont, as well as Northfield, Gill and Greenfield, Massachusetts and Hinsdale, Swanzey and Chesterfield, New Hampshire. Additionally, members of the public from the former Yankee Rowe Nuclear Power Station EPZ towns of Readsboro and Whitingham, VT sometimes attend VT NDCAP meetings.



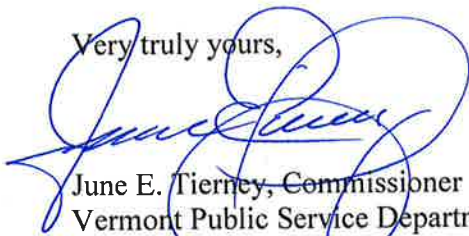
The NRC will benefit by engaging VT NDCAP while preparing the NEIMA-mandated local community decommissioning advisory boards' best practices report. VT NDCAP is comprised of 19 members that are appointed by 15 different VYNPS decommissioning stakeholder organizations. Stakeholders represented on VT NDCAP include VYNPS ownership, the Town of Vernon, Vermont, the several surrounding Vermont towns (through Windham Regional Commission representation), several Vermont State Agencies, the Vermont Legislature, the Governor of Vermont and the several New Hampshire and Massachusetts towns within the former VYNPS EPZ. A very convenient way to engage these stakeholders would be through an NRC public meeting in the Vernon/Brattleboro, Vermont area.

Additionally, since the Vermont Public Service Department provides administrative support for VT NDCAP, my Department can offer you background information in the establishment, operation and logistical considerations for VT NDCAP, which should prove useful in creating your best practices report.

Lastly, please note that the State of Vermont previously filed comments regarding state government participation in active reactor decommissioning oversight in response to the NRC's Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Reactor Decommissioning, which was published as Federal Register Notification Docket ID NRC-2015-0070 in November 2015. These comments were published as Federal Register Notification NRC-2015-0070 reply #0163 (NRC ADAMS Accession Number ML16085A310). Portions of these comments, namely Part I and the Response to Question REG-3(c), provide observations on the establishment and function of local community decommissioning advisory boards which will likely prove useful in the NRC's NEIMA-related activities.

On behalf of the State of Vermont, I thank you for considering this request. The Public Service Department will be happy to assist you in identifying an appropriate meeting location in the Vernon / Brattleboro, Vermont area. Questions or requests for additional information in this matter may be directed to my office or to the Vermont State Nuclear Engineer, Anthony R. (Tony) Leshinskie at 802-272-1714 or anthony.leshinskie@vermont.gov.

Very truly yours,



June E. Tierney, Commissioner
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Cc: Chris Campany, Chair, Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel (NDCAP)
Doug Tiff, U.S. NRC Region I State Liaison Officer
Haley Pero, Outreach Staff, Burlington State Office
Kate Thomas, Esq., Policy Advisor, Bernard Sanders, United States Senator