



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 18, 2019

MEMORANDUM TO: Bruce A. Watson, CHP, Chief
Reactor Decommissioning Branch
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery
and Waste Programs
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

FROM: Kim Conway, Project Manager **//RA//**
Reactor Decommissioning Branch
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery
and Waste Programs
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

ACTIVITY: Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (NEIMA)
Section 108 Public Meetings to Collect Feedback on
Establishment and Operation of Community Advisory Boards

FACILITY: Vermont Yankee NEIMA Meeting

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2019, PUBLIC MEETING
NEAR THE VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION
REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF
COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARDS

Background

On September 10, 2019, a Category 3 public meeting was held between U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff, members of the public and interested stakeholders at the Brattleboro Area Middle School, 109 Sunny Acres, Brattleboro, Vermont. The purpose of the meeting was to assist the NRC staff in identifying best practices and lessons learned for establishment and operation of local community advisory boards (CABs) associated with power reactor decommissioning activities.

These actions are being taken in response to Section 108 of NEIMA, which was signed into law on January 14, 2019, and requires the NRC to provide a report to Congress no later than July 14, 2020, identifying best practices for establishing and operating local community advisory boards to foster communication and information exchange between a decommissioning licensee and the local community, including lessons learned from such organizations.

Contact: Kim Conway
301-415-1335

The meeting notice can be found in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System [ADAMS] under Accession No. [ML19219B392](#). A list of attendees is provided in Enclosure 1 (note that the names of some participants were not captured), the meeting transcript is available in ADAMS at Accession No. [ML19317D077](#), and is linked in Enclosure 2.

Meeting

On September 10, 2019, the NRC staff held a public meeting to discuss the agency's activities in accordance with Section 108 of NEIMA to collect information on the use of local community advisory boards during decommissioning activities and issue a best practices report. The contents of this report will include a description of the type of topics that could be brought before a community advisory board; how the board's input could inform the decision-making process of stakeholders for various decommissioning activities; how the board could interact with the NRC and other Federal regulatory bodies to promote dialogue between the licensee and affected stakeholders; and how the board could offer opportunities for public engagement throughout all phases of the decommissioning process. The report will also include a discussion of the composition of existing community advisory boards and best practices identified during the establishment and operation of such boards, including logistical considerations, frequency of meetings, and the selection of board members.

Representatives from the NRC staff gave a presentation on the requirements of NEIMA Section 108, and presented the various methods to provide feedback on best practices and lessons learned from community advisory boards. This presentation can be found in ADAMS at Accession No. [ML19248C230](#), and is linked in Enclosure 3. Additional information on NEIMA Section 108, as well as an electronic means of providing comments, are available at the NRC public website at <https://www.nrc.gov/waste/decommissioning/neima-section-108.html>.

At the end of the presentation, the NRC staff received feedback from members of the public and other stakeholders on the various topics outlined in NEIMA Section 108. The comments and questions received are summarized in Enclosure 4, and focused primarily on the membership of community panels, the independence of the panel as an advisory body, and the ways in which the panel can establish and maintain outreach with the community. To date, no Public Meeting Feedback forms were received.

Brattleboro Community Television recorded the meeting, and the video can be viewed at <https://www.brattleborotv.org/nuclear-regulatory-commission-hearings/nrc-91019-mtg>.

Docket Nos. 50-271
License No. DPR-28

Enclosures:

1. List of Attendees
2. Public Meeting Transcript
3. NRC Presentation Slides
4. Summary of Public Comments

cc w/enclosures: Distribution via ListServ

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DATE: November 18, 2019

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***via email**

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NAME	KConway	CHolston*	BWatson*	KConway
DATE	11/13/2019	11/13/2019	11/15/2019	11/18/2019

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LIST OF ATTENDEES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2019, PUBLIC MEETING NEAR

THE VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION REGARDING

THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARDS

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Trish Holahan, NMSS/DUWP
Bruce Watson, NMSS/DUWP
Kim Conway, NMSS/DUWP
Ted Smith, NMSS/DUWP
Amy Snyder, NMSS/DUWP
Jenny Weil, OCA
Eugene Dacus, OCA
Neil Sheehan, OPA
Tison Campbell, OGC
Jennifer Scro, OGC
Nicolas Mertz, OGC
Brett Klukan, Facilitator

Meeting Attendees*

Haley Pero	Bruce Montgomery
Tom Berry	Howard Shaffer
Thea Wurzburg	Lissa Weinmann
June Tierney	Mike Mulligan
Donald Hudson	Derrick Jordan
Eric Howes	Schuyler Gould
Chris Company	Lorie Cartwright
Clay Turnbull	Gary Sachs
Deb Katz	Josh Unruh

*note that name spelling is approximate

Enclosure 2

**Vermont Yankee NEIMA Section 108
Public Meeting Transcript**

[ML19317D077](#)

Enclosure 3

**U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Presentation Slides**

[ML19248C230](#)

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS FROM THE
SEPTEMBER 10, 2019, PUBLIC MEETING NEAR
THE VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION REGARDING
THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARDS

During the public comment portion of the Vermont Yankee NEIMA Section 108 public meeting, the NRC staff received feedback from members of the public and other stakeholders on the various topics outlined in NEIMA Section 108 regarding best practices and lessons learned for community advisory boards. Comments and feedback were received on the following topics:

- A community advisory board (CAB) should be established early to allow the public to weigh in on what the community would like to see from a CAB regarding its purpose, function, and composition.
- Early CAB formation is helpful, as there is a significant learning curve for CAB members and the public at the beginning of the decommissioning process.
- In order for a CAB to be effective, all parties must buy into the process genuinely.
- Significant resources are required for the operation of a CAB. How should a CAB be funded? Should citizen members of the CAB be compensated for the time they devote?
- What jurisdiction should a CAB represent? Local community, State community?
- CAB meetings should be well planned and advertised in advance, with time allocated for public comments.
- The CAB should be independent from the licensee and other related parties. Licensee participation is important, but they should not be voting members of the CAB.
- It is important for CABs to share what they learn.
- CABs should regularly assess whether changes to the membership, structure, or duties are appropriate.
- A variety of special topics have been discussed at CAB meetings at the request of panel members and public comments. The CAB provides a means of educating panelists and the public about many aspects of decommissioning and site restoration.
- CABs are a conduit through which agencies and licensees interact with one another in a very public venue, and there is value in the public seeing this interaction.
- The community should consider whether there is any reason to bifurcate engagement related to decommissioning and socioeconomic impact planning.
- Different models of CABs can work well. One size does not fit all. Examples were given of successful licensee-sponsored and State-sponsored CABs.

A copy of the slides presented by Don Hudson can be found in ADAMS at Accession No. [ML19318G268](#)

A copy of the Maine Yankee Community Advisory Panel final report, submitted by Don Hudson at the meeting, can be found in ADAMS at Accession No. [ML19318G264](#)

A copy of the comments submitted at the meeting by Deb Katz can be found in ADAMS at Accession No. [ML19318G265](#)

A copy of the comments submitted at the meeting by Howard Shaffer can be found in ADAMS at Accession No. [ML19318G267](#)