

November 19, 2004

Mr. Peter Alexander
Executive Director
New England Coalition
P.O. Box 545
Brattleboro, VT 05302

Dear Mr. Alexander:

I am responding on behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to your email of September 15, 2004, to Mr. Rick Ennis. In your email, you requested a schedule of NRC public meetings that will be held near the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (Vermont Yankee). The NRC plans to hold two public meetings near the Vermont Yankee site. The first public meeting is to discuss the results of the special inspection that evaluated the licensee's response to the misplaced fuel segments. The second public meeting is to discuss the results of the engineering team inspection. The NRC staff is working with State and local officials to reschedule the public meeting originally set for November 9 in Vernon, Vermont. Local officials advised the NRC that a larger-than-anticipated audience made them unable to support the meeting between the NRC and Entergy on that date. Because another location could not be located in time to adequately notify the public, the public meeting was postponed. Information on the date and location for the rescheduled meeting will be posted on the NRC's Vermont Yankee webpage. The public will have the opportunity to ask questions or make statements to the NRC staff regarding the inspections during the meeting.

You also asked about the availability of documentation regarding the engineering inspection prior to the public meeting. We greatly appreciate your interest in the results of the engineering inspection and understand your desire to provide meaningful comment at the exit meeting. The NRC strives to conduct our work in an environment where we balance the openness of our regulatory processes, through the flow of information to interested stakeholders, with the orderly conduct of government business. Due to feedback from our external stakeholders regarding their interest in obtaining the results of the inspection, the NRC staff has publicly released a summary of the preliminary findings of the engineering inspection. The summary is available on the NRC's Vermont Yankee webpage at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/plant-specific-items/vermont-yankee-issues/engineering-inspection.html>.

You also referenced a follow-up meeting to the March 31, 2004 public meeting to discuss the staff's review of the application submitted by Entergy for the extended power uprate at Vermont Yankee. The NRC is aware of the expectation given at that meeting that we would return to discuss our review. However, because the staff's review of the Vermont Yankee application is ongoing, it would be premature to engage in substantive discussion of the power uprate proposal at this time. We expect to hold a separate meeting in the future to discuss the proposed power uprate.

I want to assure you that the NRC is making every effort to be open in dealing with our stakeholders regarding our activities at Vermont Yankee. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Cornelius F. Holden, Director
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

P. Alexander

- 2 -

I want to assure you that the NRC is making every effort to be open in dealing with our stakeholders regarding our activities at Vermont Yankee. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Cornelius F. Holden, Director
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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