

From: Neil Sheehan *RI*
To: Cliff Anderson; Donald Florek; Tracy Walker
Date: 4/29/04 3:55PM
Subject: Some Qs on PSB letter

Some Qs on the letter to the PSB:

* The PSB order approving the VY power uprate was very specific with regard to what it was requesting of the NRC. It asked that A.) the NRC's review be independent in the same sense as the Maine Yankee ISA, that is, that it be performed by experts "independent of any recent or significant regulatory oversight responsibility" of Vermont Yankee; B.) that it will consist of a "vertical slice review" of two safety-related systems and two Maintenance Rule, non-safety related systems affected by the uprate; and C.) that the assessment be reviewed by the ACRS in the context of its evaluation of the power uprate. Specifically, without any semantic footwork, how does the NRC's letter to the PSB live up to that request?

* With regard to Point B in the PSB's request, the PSB said the level of effort necessary for this work should require "about four experts for about four weeks." The NRC letter to the PSB calls for more experts but they would be there for about three weeks. How does this fit with the PSB's request? Is it comparable or greater? Do you believe it will be satisfactory to the PSB? Is the NRC willing to alter its plans if the PSB is not satisfied?

* On the issue of independence, how many members of the NRC team would be able to meet the criteria spelled out in Point A of the PSB's request?

* How does the review the NRC has proposed doing at VY compare with the ISA requested by the state Senate and other groups and individuals? How do you think the state Senate will react to the NRC's response to the PSB?

* Isn't the proposed NRC review really nothing more than window dressing? How can the public believe the NRC really cares about safety at VY or the safety of the public?

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From: Neil Sheehan

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