



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs, Region I
475 Allendale Road, King of Prussia, Pa.

www.nrc.gov

No. I-06-042

July 21, 2006

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ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD TO HEAR ORAL ARGUMENT IN VERMONT YANKEE LICENSE RENEWAL PROCEEDING

An Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) panel will hear oral argument on requests for a hearing on the Vermont Yankee license renewal application on Tuesday, Aug. 1, and, if needed, on Wednesday, Aug. 2, in Brattleboro, Vt. The ASLB is a quasi-judicial arm of the NRC that deals with licensing matters.

The Aug. 1st session is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. in the multi-purpose room at Brattleboro Union High School, 131 Fairground Road in Brattleboro. If needed, the oral argument will continue starting at 9 a.m. on Aug. 2 at the same location. The sessions are open for public observation, but participation will be limited to the parties involved in the proceeding. Early arrival is suggested (so as to allow for security screening) for all members of the public interested in attending. Attendees are requested to refrain from bringing any unnecessary hand-carried items, such as packages, briefcases, backpacks and other items, that might need to be examined for security purposes.

Entergy, the owner and operator of Vermont Yankee, submitted an application for a 20-year license extension on Jan. 25. The current NRC operating license for the plant, which is located in Vernon, Vt., is set to expire on March 21, 2012.

Requests for an evidentiary hearing on the application were submitted by the states of Vermont and Massachusetts; the New England Coalition, a nuclear watchdog organization; and the Town of Marlboro, Vt. The ASLB panel will hear oral argument on the admissibility of some of the issues raised in these filings and determine, at a later date, whether a hearing should be granted.

Documents related to the Vermont Yankee license renewal application are available on the NRC web site at:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/vermont-yankee.html> .

Documents pertaining to the ASLB proceeding are available in the agency's electronic document library at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html> .

More information about the ASLB can be found at:

<http://www.nrc.gov/who-we-are/organization/aslbfuncdesc.html> .

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