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RE Vermont Yankee

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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10 CFR 2.206 PETITION REVIEW BOARD (PRB)

CONFERENCE CALL

RE

VERMONT YANKEE

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WEDNESDAY

SEPTEMBER 14, 2011

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The conference call was held, Patrick Hiland, Chairperson of the Petition Review Board, presiding.

PETITIONER: MICHAEL MULLIGAN

PETITION REVIEW BOARD MEMBERS:

PATRICK HILAND, Chairman, Petition Review Board

JAMES KIM, Petition Manager for 2.206 Petition

NRC HEADQUARTERS STAFF:

TANYA MENSAH, Petition Coordinator, NRR

LUDWIG KERN, NRR

STEVE JONES, NRR

NAGESWARA KARIPINENI, NRR

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1 NRC REGIONAL STAFF:

2 THOMAS SETZER, Region 1

3 ALSO PRESENT:

4 JIM DEVINCENTIS, Entergy Nuclear Operations

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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

(2:02 p.m.)

MR. KIM: Okay. Good afternoon. I would like to thank everybody for attending this meeting.

My name is James Kim, and I am the Vermont Yankee Project Manager.

We are here today to allow the Petitioner, Mr. Michael Mulligan, to address the Petition Review Board regarding 2.206 petition dated August 26, 2011.

I am the Petition Manager for the petition. The Petition Review Board Chairman is Patrick Hiland.

As a part of the Petition Review Board's review of this petition, Mr. Michael Mulligan has requested this opportunity to address the PRB. This meeting is scheduled from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. The meeting is being recorded by the NRC Operations Center and will be transcribed by a Court Reporter. The transcript will become a supplement to the petition. The transcript will also be made publicly available.

I would like to open this meeting with introductions. As we go around the room, please be sure to clearly state your name, your position, and the office that you work for within the NRC, for the record.

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1 I'll start off. This is James Kim. I'm
2 a Project Manager for the Division of Operating
3 Reactor Licensing in NRR.

4 MR. KARIPINENI: I am Rah Karipineni from
5 the Containment and Ventilation Branch in the NRR.

6 MR. JONES: Steve Jones. I'm a Senior
7 Reactor Systems Engineer in the Balance of Plant
8 Branch of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

9 MR. KERN: Ludwig Kern, Division of
10 Reactor Licensing in NRR.

11 CHAIRMAN HILAND: I'm Pat Hiland. My
12 normal job in the NRC is I'm the Director of the
13 Division of Engineering within the Office of Nuclear
14 Reactor Regulation. And for the purposes of today's
15 Petition Review Board, I am the Chairman.

16 MR. KIM: Thank you. At this time, are
17 there any NRC participants from the headquarters on
18 the line?

19 MS. MENSAH: This is Tanya Mensah. I work
20 in the Division of Policy and Rulemaking, NRR, and I
21 am the 2.206 coordinator.

22 MR. KIM: Are there any NRC participants
23 from the regional office on the phone?

24 MR. SETZER: Yes, hi. This is Tom Setzer.
25 I'm a Senior Project Engineer in Region I for the

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1 Division of Reactor Projects.

2 MR. KIM: Thank you. Are there any
3 representatives for the licensee on the line?

4 MR. DEVINCENTIS: Yes. This is Jim
5 Devincentis, Entergy Nuclear Operations.

6 MR. KIM: Mr. Mulligan, would you please
7 introduce yourself for the record?

8 MR. MULLIGAN: I'm Mike Mulligan, and I'm
9 a whistleblower, and I live in Hinsdale, just across
10 the river from the plant.

11 MR. KIM: Thank you. Are there any
12 others, such as members of the public, on the phone?

13 (No response.)

14 It is not required for members of the
15 public to introduce themselves for this call.
16 However, if there are any members of the public on the
17 phone that wish to do so at this time, please state
18 your name for the record.

19 (No response.)

20 Hearing none, I would like to emphasize
21 that we each need to speak clearly and loudly to make
22 sure that the Court Reporter can accurately transcribe
23 this meeting. If you do have something that you would
24 like to say, please first state your name for the
25 record.

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1 For those dialing into the meeting, please
2 remember to mute your phones to minimize any
3 background noise or distractions. If you do not have
4 a mute button, this can be done by pressing the keys
5 star six. To unmute, press the star six keys again.
6 Thank you.

7 At this time, I'll turn it over to the PRB
8 Chairman, Patrick Hiland.

9 CHAIRMAN HILAND: Good afternoon. This is
10 Patrick Hiland. Welcome to this meeting regarding the
11 2.206 petition submitted by Mr. Mulligan. I would
12 like, first, to share some background on our process.

13 Section 2.206 of Title 10 of the Code of
14 Federal Regulations describes the petition process:
15 the primary mechanism for the public to request
16 enforcement action by the NRC in a public process.
17 This process permits anyone to petition the NRC to
18 take enforcement-type action related to NRC licensees
19 or licensed activities.

20 Depending on the results of its
21 evaluation, NRC could modify, suspend, or revoke an
22 NRC-issued license, or take any other appropriate
23 enforcement action to resolve a problem. The NRC
24 staff's guidance for the disposition of 2.206
25 petitions requests is in Management Directive 8.11,

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1 which is publicly available.

2 The purpose of today's meeting is to give
3 the Petitioner an opportunity to provide any
4 additional explanation or support for the petition
5 before the Petition Review Board's initial
6 consideration and recommendation. This meeting is not
7 a hearing, nor is it an opportunity for the Petitioner
8 to question or examine the PRB on the merits of the
9 issues presented in the petition request.

10 No decisions regarding the merits of this
11 petition will be made at this meeting. Following this
12 meeting, the Petition Review Board will conduct its
13 internal deliberations. The outcome of this internal
14 meeting will be discussed with the Petitioner.

15 The Petition Review Board typically
16 consists of a Chairman, usually a manager at the
17 Senior Executive Service level at the NRC. And, of
18 course, I am at the Senior Executive Service level
19 within the NRC, and, as a Petition Manager, Mr. Kim,
20 and a PRB coordinator. Other members of the Board are
21 determined by the NRC staff based on the content of
22 the information in the petition request.

23 At this time, I would like to introduce
24 the Board. As we have heard, Mr. James Kim is the
25 Petition Manager for the Board. Tanya Mensah is the

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1 office's PRB coordinator. Other staff that you heard
2 introduce themselves, Rah Karipineni represents the
3 Containment and Ventilation Branch, Steve Jones is
4 from the Balance of Plant Branch, Tom Setzer is from
5 Region I, Division of Reactor Projects.

6 As described in our process, the NRC staff
7 may ask clarifying questions in order to better
8 understand the Petitioner's presentation and to reach
9 a reasoned decision whether to accept or reject the
10 Petitioner's request for review under the 2.206
11 process.

12 Now I would like to summarize the scope of
13 the petition under consideration and the NRC
14 activities to date. On August 26, 2011, Mr. Mulligan
15 submitted to the NRC a petition under 2.206 in which
16 you expressed a concern regarding a steam or vapor
17 plume coming from the Vermont Yankee turbine building
18 roof.

19 In this petition request, Mr. Mulligan --
20 and there is 10 items I will now mention -- one,
21 requested an immediate report on the basic function of
22 the vapor extractor, an immediate radiological reading
23 of the discharge and listing of all the nuclides; two,
24 requested the content of vapor and asked whether
25 reactor steam and water get released out of the vent

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1 on top of the turbine building roof; three, asked
2 whether all lube oil fumes are disclosed in any
3 government reports, and how much lube oil gets
4 discharged to the environment; four, asked where the
5 rainwater collected on the roof goes to and whether it
6 is monitored; five, asked the nature of contamination
7 on top of the roof; six, asked whether the radiation
8 from vent enters Hinsdale, New Hampshire, and whether
9 it is disclosed; asked how much turbine building air
10 gets sucked into the lube oil return and whether there
11 is turbine steam or condensed water that gets sucked
12 through the system; eight, requested an estimation of
13 radiological discharge and any and all of Vermont
14 Yankee's past fuel failures; nine, requested the
15 radiological content of the turbine loop system; ten,
16 asked whether the roof drains to the plant sewers and
17 to the river out fall north of the intake, and whether
18 there is lube oil and radiation in the sewers.

19 In addition, Mr. Mulligan requested the
20 previously submitted Palisades 2.206 requested actions
21 to be optimized for this Vermont Yankee 2.206
22 petition. And, again, there is 10 items that I will
23 relate.

24 One, requested Vermont Yankee Nuclear
25 Power Plant and all Entergy Nuclear power plants to be

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1 immediately shutdown; two, requested top Vermont
2 Yankee management staff be fired and replaced before
3 startup; three, requested Entergy's corporate nuclear
4 senior staff be fired and replaced before the restart
5 of the plants; four, requested two additional
6 inspectors to be assigned to Vermont Yankee plant, and
7 to all the rest of the troubled Entergy Nuclear
8 plants; five, requested the formation of a local
9 public oversight panel around every plant; six,
10 requested an emergency NRC senior official oversight
11 panel with the aims of reforming the ROP; seven,
12 requested a national NRC oversight panel of outsiders
13 to oversee and report on the agency's activities.
14 There should be a mixture of professional, academic
15 people and capable laypeople.

16 Eight, stated that there is some heavy-
17 duty and exceedingly numerous findings of problems
18 with Entergy plants during this inspection reporting
19 cycle. Do an analysis of why this is occurring.
20 Nine, requested an evaluation if NRC Region I has
21 enough personnel and resources; ten, requested
22 President Obama to fire all of the NRC Commissioners.

23 Now I'll discuss the NRC activities to
24 date. On September 8, 2011, the Petition Manager
25 contacted Mr. Mulligan to discuss the 10 CFR 2.206

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1 process and to offer you an initial opportunity to
2 address the Petition Review Board prior to its
3 internal meeting to make the initial recommendation.
4 You requested an opportunity to address the PRB by
5 telephone, which is the purpose of today's call.

6 As a reminder for the phone participants,
7 please identify yourself if you make any remarks, as
8 this will help us in preparation of the meeting
9 transcript that will be made publicly available.
10 Thank you.

11 Mr. Mulligan, I will turn the meeting over
12 to you now to allow you to provide any information you
13 believe the PRB should consider as part of this
14 petition.

15 MR. MULLIGAN: Well, you know, I know the
16 NRC is in the process of repairing itself when they
17 redo the 2.206 process, you know? Basically, I always
18 -- you know, I always go to -- always have an issue
19 with getting information. You tell me that this is a
20 -- partially a legal thing and -- but I have no
21 ability to seek transparency and information and stuff
22 like that, all these types of things. I really can't
23 go into these meetings with any new information,
24 because I don't have access to the plant or the
25 information and stuff.

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1 And so, basically, the 2.206 is flawed.
2 I would say we would have a lot better industry if
3 there would be some ability to gather the information,
4 and I can attack what I think is wrong with the NRC
5 and Vermont Yankee. I think we would have a lot less
6 problems with the industry if people could do this
7 type of stuff and vaccinate everybody from a lot of
8 these problems.

9 I made an attempt to communicate with Mr.
10 Setzer, basically asking, you know, a bunch of
11 foundational questions. What is the net
12 radioactivity, what is the net steam, and type of
13 thing, and, you know, I wanted some information on the
14 attributes of the steam release or vapor release. And
15 there's just nothing but silence and stuff.

16 I don't understand why it's like that,
17 that once you open up a 2.206 process everybody clams
18 up and nobody says anything. I think it's unfair to
19 the community. I think it's unconstitutional. It's
20 not the way we do business as far as being open to
21 people in the surrounding communities who could be
22 exposed to contamination. And we are a very small --
23 we have a very small footprint within the emergency
24 evacuation zones, and, you know, I think we should be
25 treated differently because of it.

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1 So I am saddened that I couldn't have any
2 -- couldn't get any information about what is in that
3 steam to present to you.

4 We do know with the vapor extractor it's
5 an obscure system that not very many -- well, until
6 recently, not -- you know, all the oldsters have been
7 retiring off, and they really haven't been keeping up
8 to the function of the system. And many plants have
9 -- including Vermont Yankee have gotten into trouble
10 with thinking they could secure the vapor extractors,
11 because basically they provide a function with drawing
12 lube oil back into the lube oil tank.

13 A lot of plants, including Vermont Yankee,
14 has gotten into trouble with thinking they can shut
15 off those vapor extractor stands, and Vermont Yankee
16 recently added another fan. I don't know if they --
17 if it's standby or whether two of them are operating
18 at one time, or what have you.

19 But, as I said, it has been an obscure
20 system until a lot of plants have -- well, a few
21 plants have, including Vermont Yankee, have spilled a
22 lot of lube oil and created fires and smoldering oil
23 in their turbine insulation, and generally frightened
24 the whole plant with the mist of oil in these plants,
25 because they weren't keeping up to the details of how

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1 their systems are -- these systems were working.

2 You know, as far as the big picture with
3 this thing, especially an example with FitzPatrick
4 recently, and Grand Gulf, you know, I have talked
5 about this in past petitions and stuff like that.

6 You know, it's really not fair what is
7 going on here. You have a violation in the distant
8 past. You know, it might be a year off, or it might
9 be two years in the past. You guys fiddle around
10 reporting very little on it, and stuff like that. You
11 wait for a year or two years, and then you make a
12 report on it.

13 And then, you might have to have another
14 year of this ADR process and stuff like that, and it's
15 not right that you can't immediately report an
16 incident, say this is what happens, this is what
17 happened, to the best of our ability to describe it,
18 and stuff like that. That's the first report that
19 should come out.

20 Then, the second report should come out
21 later on. I don't know, it's not fair that there is
22 such a delay in all of this -- these reportings, you
23 know. We don't have to do it for 60 days or we don't
24 have to do it for six months. We have to wait until
25 the licensee gets the root cause completed, and they

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1 get to set what the timeframe is of the report is,
2 basically, by delaying the root cause report and stuff
3 like that.

4 It's just not fair, it's not America, that
5 this -- that all of these things are not immediately
6 reported, corrected at the soonest opportunity, people
7 have the opportunity to provide feedback, and they
8 force you all to be better people, and stuff like
9 that. It's not -- this is part of -- I think this is
10 part of the big picture of what's wrong with the
11 nuclear industry in that things aren't disclosed
12 quickly.

13 They are not taken care -- punishment
14 isn't meted out quickly, and corrective actions aren't
15 done in a timely manner, and stuff like that. I think
16 it's a big problem with the nuclear industry as a
17 whole.

18 We know that Palisades, where they had --
19 where I've had a series of 2.206s, you know -- you
20 know, I'd like to know the difference between a
21 confirm -- confer -- confirm -- a -- let me see if I
22 can get that word right. Confirmatory -- confer --
23 confirmation order or --

24 CHAIRMAN HILAND: Confirmatory order?

25 MR. MULLIGAN: Yes. Order and a -- order

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1 and action? There's two of them with that -- say that
2 again.

3 CHAIRMAN HILAND: This is Pat Hiland
4 speaking. I was trying to help the pronunciation. I
5 believe you're referring to, Mr. Mulligan, a
6 confirmatory order?

7 MR. MULLIGAN: Confirmatory order, yes.
8 And a confirmation action level? What's the two --
9 what's the difference?

10 CHAIRMAN HILAND: Confirmatory action
11 letter.

12 MR. MULLIGAN: Yes.

13 CHAIRMAN HILAND: Yes, two methods that we
14 communicate.

15 MR. MULLIGAN: Well, anyway, it's -- you
16 know, Palisades -- you know, it's interesting.
17 Palisades hasn't had any of these types of things
18 until Entergy began opening it -- began operating it.
19 Back in 2006, or '05, or what have you, they had a
20 series of these things.

21 They had one about giving incomplete and
22 inaccurate information over a security event. They
23 had issues with their fuel pool, fuel assemblies,
24 their not owning up to stuck fuel bundles, and not
25 discovering at the earliest opportunity what was the

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1 problem with that. And they had -- you know, they
2 didn't correct it at the soonest opportunity.

3 And, basically, they had an issue with
4 employee protection and stuff like that, you know, and
5 then you go back -- you go to this recent thing with
6 Grand Gulf. They have another issue with employee
7 protection and potentially employee intimidation and
8 stuff.

9 I have a criticism with the NRC that most
10 of the stuff with that Grand Gulf business they talked
11 -- they were patting Entergy on the back, and they did
12 very little. They mentioned the poor guy that stuck
13 his neck out very little, you know, almost like he is
14 -- you know, well, he is inconsequential to the whole
15 deal, instead of celebrating him and make like I
16 talked about, you know, maybe brought him in and gave
17 him a letter of commendation or whatever, or send a
18 signal out that that's the kind of people we want in
19 the industry nowadays. We want people to speak out.
20 If they can't speak out, then they go to the next
21 higher level.

22 I was disappointed with that whole
23 disclosure about the Grand Gulf situation. Like I
24 said, you know, the problem is these things rattle
25 around. I talked about this in a past 2.206 -- the

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1 magic button we can push, and we don't -- there isn't
2 events -- big events happening that are kept secretly
3 from the public for years until they -- you know, they
4 get the corrective actions all set up. And it takes
5 the NRC forever to investigate these things, for
6 years, for three or four years at a time, and stuff
7 like that. It's just unacceptable that we have this
8 kind of stuff in the industry today.

9 The ADR process basically is -- the
10 outcome is that a lot of stuff is hidden behind a
11 curtain that you never can see. And, again, you know,
12 the way we really protect the industry is we give the
13 information to the public, and then there is a
14 feedback cycle that goes on with that.

15 The public lets the NRC know what they
16 want and what quality of safety they need and want and
17 stuff like that, and then the NRC meets the needs of
18 the public and stuff. You don't wait around until a
19 big accident and then you do it, you know, type of
20 thing. And you don't hide things until a big accident
21 happens. Then, we find out retroactively that
22 everybody knew about the accident was coming and stuff
23 like that. It's just -- it's unacceptable what is
24 going on here.

25 And like I said, back in 1992, as far as

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1 with that turbine building roof, I was the first one
2 to disclose that there was radiation going into the
3 Connecticut River. I did that when I was an employee,
4 and I leaked that to the media.

5 And I made a complaint about, you know,
6 the turbine building, stands on the roof, you know,
7 and who -- how do we know what contamination and
8 radioactivity goes out the turbine building when those
9 fans are open and running, which they were most of the
10 times and stuff like that.

11 And I believe we -- they put in detectors
12 because of me. And so anyways, here we are sitting
13 here trying to figure out what that steam plume is for
14 the -- coming out of the reactor building. You know,
15 like I said in my petition, how is the roof going? I
16 mean, is there contamination up there? Is there lube
17 oil? Is this still condensing out on the property
18 causing some of our problems and stuff like that?

19 How come I need a process, you know, this
20 2.206 process, where I can get -- I get my words at
21 least written down and on NRC documents. And if
22 something bad happens or something shows up in the
23 future, at least I can say, you know, I did my job.
24 I got it on paper. And I was right or wrong. I'll
25 stand by what my assertions are and stuff.

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1 And so I know from -- as an employee there
2 that, you know, what is in that steam. You know, I
3 know the bearings have probably been -- I was
4 underneath it. I know it's usually a high radiation
5 level when the plant is running and stuff, and I know
6 that there is steam and leaks of an assorted nature,
7 and, you know, that pump is like a -- the stands are
8 like a vacuum, it sucks in, you know, it sucks in all
9 -- a turbine building atmosphere, into the lube oil
10 tank. We don't know if it concentrates, you know,
11 there is a concentrate business.

12 We talked -- they have talked about some
13 hydrogen being entrained in the oil. I'm not certain
14 whether the hydrogen is from the generator or is it
15 from the -- is it tritium, and that type of thing.
16 So, you know, there's a lot of unknowns on this
17 obscure system that just popped up.

18 (Pause.)

19 I'm just looking to make sure that I've
20 got my -- all my issues taken care of. Oh. So why
21 couldn't that -- why couldn't that vent line -- why
22 couldn't -- you know, we know that the ventilation --
23 why couldn't that go into the ventilation system? And
24 they pumped that outside, you know, at some point near
25 the discharge -- they would have two vent paths. They

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1 have an in -- inlet fans and outlet fans. I forget
2 how that goes. Fans that pump air into the building
3 and fans that pump air out of the building.

4 And they basically go out the stack. You
5 know, why couldn't you put them -- discharge that --
6 have that discharge out, to go out with the
7 ventilation? We know that there is radiation
8 detectors that continuously -- and recorded monitoring
9 would be monitoring that stuff. As far as I know now,
10 that stuff isn't being -- the radiation out there at
11 the turbine building isn't being continuously
12 monitored.

13 You know, that's a concept of -- you know,
14 I don't know about the rules and regulations, but the
15 general safety concept and public welfare concept is
16 you don't discharge anything without knowing --
17 without, one, knowing that you are discharging it;
18 number two, without it being under the legal limits;
19 number three, that it's measured and recordable.

20 I mean, that's a basic principle of
21 nuclear power type of thing, and I don't see -- you
22 know, as far as the information I have, I don't see
23 that there is any of that going on at Vermont Yankee
24 or any other site in the nation.

25 And that brings up broader questions. Is

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1 the environmental -- I mean, I don't know what the
2 radiation amounts -- amounts and levels of that
3 radiation. I believe seeing that plume of steam is --
4 over a year's time of operation is a significant
5 amount of water and vapor and lube oil. I suspect it
6 is vapor or steam or something like that.

7 It's a significant amount of atmosphere
8 leaving the turbine building. Basically, I think it's
9 an enormous amount from a -- you know, it looks like
10 a small steam, but from day to day to year to year,
11 over decades, that is a lot of emissions from Vermont
12 Yankee. And it's surprising that it is not accounted
13 for.

14 I did lookups on the vapor extractor. And
15 like I said, it's an obscure system, and it's very
16 infrequently mentioned in any of the inspection
17 reports. I see no inspections from the NRC on the
18 vapor extractor. I know it's a secondary system, but
19 it does emit radiation to the outside. There is some
20 level of radiation, there is no question about it,
21 that goes to the outside. And that should be a
22 concern of the ROP, that everything that gets released
23 to the atmosphere is fully understood and reported on.

24 Again, I don't know the magnitude of the
25 other plants that have this kind of system, vapor

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1 extractor, with the pipe directly out into the turbine
2 building. But it -- you know, in any similar
3 situation at another plant -- I can't say that right.
4 Any similar setup at another plant, you know, again,
5 you've got the possibility that radiation is escaping.
6 And we don't know at what levels and stuff.

7 It's not continuously reported, so, you
8 know, if something happens, you know, you can hold
9 people accountable if something happens. You had a
10 leak of some sort and you were releasing illegal
11 amounts of radiation, you could report it, and people
12 could be punished for it, and stuff like that. We
13 don't have that here.

14 So, you know, that's my broad system -- my
15 broad question is that a lot of environmental reports
16 are -- environmental radiological reports are
17 inaccurate, until I see evidence otherwise.

18 Again, I would like to thank everybody for
19 allowing me this opportunity to express my views.

20 CHAIRMAN HILAND: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
21 Mulligan. Before I go to my closing remarks, I would
22 like to just address a couple of the comments that I
23 heard from you, just as an exchange of information
24 between us.

25 This is Pat Hiland speaking. I'm sorry.

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1 You know, one thing I heard -- and I think
2 I heard it repeatedly -- was your lack of ability to
3 gain information. And I would, you know, only make
4 sure that you're aware that the licensee -- or that
5 the NRC conducts public reactor oversight program
6 meetings yearly. And they should be conducted in the
7 local area.

8 And I'll ask our representative from
9 Region I to speak up if I'm incorrect.

10 MR. SETZER: Hi. This is Tom. No, you're
11 right. We do the annual assessment meeting in that
12 area, and actually Mr. Mulligan frequently attends
13 those. He was at the last one.

14 CHAIRMAN HILAND: Okay. Well, that's
15 good. I just wanted to make sure you were aware of
16 that, and obviously you are.

17 You suggested -- I am just taking what I
18 heard -- and correct me if I'm wrong -- but you
19 suggested that information from the NRC was not
20 forthcoming, it was difficult to get, and I'm just
21 making sure that you're aware that the Freedom of
22 Information Act, that is a process that we follow and
23 we are pretty good at it.

24 The Freedom of Information Act -- if we
25 have information in our hands that can be made

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1 publicly available, that you request, we are pretty
2 good at responding to that. I won't say in days, but
3 certainly in months of time. And I think you
4 mentioned you were frustrated by some of the years
5 that you waited for some information.

6 And then, lastly, you know, some of the
7 concerns you have, if they are real safety concerns
8 that you have, on our web page we have access to our
9 allegations program. I don't know that you have
10 partaken in that before.

11 MR. MULLIGAN: They know me. They all
12 know me. Everybody knows me.

13 CHAIRMAN HILAND: I don't -- well, I don't
14 know you, so that's why I'm going through this. But
15 in the case of your looking for, you know, just
16 specific technical information, typically when I'm on
17 an ARB as a chairman, if the -- you know, if the
18 concerned person just wants technical information, I
19 will send that to the license holder and ask them to
20 respond, and typically they do.

21 And I'm not sure that -- I don't know
22 whether the licensee -- Entergy has a website specific
23 to Vermont Yankee or not, but that would -- may be
24 another source where you could gather information. I
25 don't know. I have not looked at it, but I would

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1 appreciate --

2 MR. MULLIGAN: Well --

3 CHAIRMAN HILAND: Go ahead.

4 MR. MULLIGAN: -- I found over the years,
5 you know, everybody talks after these things, like you
6 did, you know, and --

7 CHAIRMAN HILAND: Right.

8 MR. MULLIGAN: -- stuff, and talking about
9 all of these processes and stuff like that, that you
10 can do it and stuff like that. And, you know, I don't
11 know if I would have engaged in the processes that I
12 would have gotten more information. I don't --

13 CHAIRMAN HILAND: Okay. I think --

14 MR. MULLIGAN: In the past, you don't --
15 nobody -- nothing gets opened up and stuff like that,
16 so you talk about processes. But when we give you
17 incidences that -- you know, I tried to -- I tried in
18 my own way to get information, and I was rebuffed and
19 stuff like that.

20 CHAIRMAN HILAND: Okay.

21 MR. MULLIGAN: So everybody advertises
22 that you've got a ton of processes, and everybody
23 should be happy. But when you start engaging in the
24 process, like I did with Mr. Setzer, I get nothing
25 back.

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1 CHAIRMAN HILAND: Okay.

2 MR. MULLIGAN: And stuff like that. I'm
3 sick and tired of people talking about all of these
4 processes and -- but then we really have no horsepower
5 to make sure those processes get done right. You
6 know, you advertise, but there is nothing behind the
7 advertisement.

8 CHAIRMAN HILAND: Okay. And then, lastly,
9 though, I did hear you say you felt that -- I presume
10 you had access to the yearly environmental report,
11 which is available in our ADAMS. And in that report
12 you said there was an inaccuracy of that report?

13 MR. MULLIGAN: If they're not measuring
14 the -- if they're not measuring that stuff coming out
15 of the stack, you know, then the environmental report
16 is inaccurate, pending that there is radioactivity in
17 there.

18 CHAIRMAN HILAND: Okay. Well, I guess I'm
19 at a little bit of loss. I did go to your webpage --

20 MR. MULLIGAN: Yes.

21 CHAIRMAN HILAND: -- and I had a hard time
22 -- and maybe the picture wasn't there any longer -- I
23 tried to take a look at what this plume was that you
24 reference was coming out of the building. And
25 somebody is showing me a picture again of it.

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1 MR. MULLIGAN: You know, you can click on
2 that and magnify it up.

3 CHAIRMAN HILAND: Okay. Well, I'll --
4 okay. I think I see it. It's on the turbine building
5 roof about --

6 MR. MULLIGAN: Yes.

7 CHAIRMAN HILAND: -- just about maybe a
8 tenth. Let me see, one, two, three -- three columns
9 in I see a little pipe and some steam release there.
10 Is that it?

11 MR. MULLIGAN: Well, you know I'm two
12 miles away. I'm about two miles away, and I've got a
13 little camera --

14 CHAIRMAN HILAND: Okay.

15 MR. MULLIGAN: -- that is not
16 sophisticated and stuff like that.

17 CHAIRMAN HILAND: I just need --

18 MR. MULLIGAN: So it's a little plume.

19 CHAIRMAN HILAND: Okay. That's fine.

20 MR. MULLIGAN: But the --

21 CHAIRMAN HILAND: I just wanted to make
22 sure that I was viewing what you were articulating,
23 what you said. It was -- there wasn't an arrow
24 pointing at it, so I was struggling. Okay. Good.

25 MR. MULLIGAN: One more thing is that --

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1 CHAIRMAN HILAND: Sure.

2 MR. MULLIGAN: -- you know, it confused --
3 just I've got to go through a bunch of hoops. I've
4 got to know a bunch of processes, and I can't be --
5 you know, everything has got to be done in a certain
6 way, the Freedom of Information, and stuff like that.

7 There is all sorts of processes and stuff
8 here that very few people understand, and you've got
9 to take a bunch of time. It's inconvenient for
10 somebody like me to, you know, have to know all the
11 process. It's an impediment to -- trying to
12 understand what is going on here and being involved
13 with Vermont Yankee and stuff like that.

14 CHAIRMAN HILAND: Okay.

15 MR. MULLIGAN: You know, you guys talked
16 about all of these processes and stuff like that, and,
17 you know, I -- you know, the Freedom of Information.
18 I'd probably have to get somebody to certify that it's
19 my signature and stuff like that, so -- that type of
20 thing.

21 CHAIRMAN HILAND: Well, hopefully, you're
22 not --

23 MR. MULLIGAN: So it's, you know, a lot of
24 processes, but it's almost inhumanely possible to get
25 the information you want, because it's so complex and

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1 stuff. I can't go to a guy and say -- an NRC official
2 and say, you know, "I'm tired of dealing with these
3 processes. I can't understand them all. I've got a
4 life to live outside this stuff."

5 Why can't I get a professional guy that
6 knows what he is talking about to help me go through
7 this thing? Why do I always have to be the expert and
8 stuff like -- and know how everything perfectly goes?
9 Why can't I get one guy, another human being that is
10 a good guy -- I know a lot of you guys are good guys
11 -- and just help walk me through this thing instead of
12 all just always talking about these processes, these
13 processes.

14 We're all covered. We've got all these
15 processes that nobody can understand. You know,
16 that's a general comment.

17 CHAIRMAN HILAND: Okay. Thanks.

18 I have some closing remarks now. At this
19 time, does the staff here at headquarters have any
20 questions for Mr. Mulligan, clarifying questions?

21 (No response.)

22 Before I conclude the meeting, members of
23 the public may provide comments regarding the petition
24 and ask questions about the 2.206 petition process.
25 However, as stated at the opening, the purpose of this

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1 meeting is not to provide an opportunity for the
2 Petitioner or the public to question or examine the
3 PRB regarding the merits of the petition request.

4 Mr. Mulligan, thank you for taking time to
5 provide the NRC staff with clarifying information on
6 the petition you have submitted.

7 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you for -- thank you
8 for giving me this opportunity. I am very thankful
9 for this opportunity.

10 CHAIRMAN HILAND: Before we close, does
11 the Court Reporter need any additional information for
12 the meeting transcript?

13 THE COURT REPORTER: All I need is a list
14 of the names of the people who are on the call and
15 their positions. That's all.

16 MR. KIM: I'll send you the list of the
17 participants.

18 CHAIRMAN HILAND: And that was James Kim
19 who spoke.

20 Okay. Thank you, everybody. Have a good
21 day.

22 (Whereupon, at 2:41 p.m., the proceedings
23 in the foregoing matter were concluded.)
24
25

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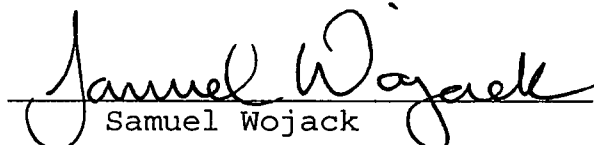
This is to certify that the attached proceedings
before the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
in the matter of: Vermont Yankee

Name of Proceeding: 10 CFR 2.206 Petition of
Michael Mulligan

Docket Number: n/a

Location: (teleconference)

were held as herein appears, and that this is the
original transcript thereof for the file of the United
States Nuclear Regulatory Commission taken by me and,
thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under the
direction of the court reporting company, and that the
transcript is a true and accurate record of the
foregoing proceedings.


Samuel Wojack
Official Reporter
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