

**RELIABILITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
OF THE VT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE**

CHARTER

I. PURPOSE

The Reliability Oversight Committee ("ROC") is responsible for assisting the Department of Public Service (the "Department") in its regulatory oversight of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (the "Station") as needed. The ROC shall provide scientific and technical expertise and advice to the Department on issues within the Department's jurisdiction including but not limited to the reliability and performance of the Station or its decommissioning and return to a greenfield state. The ROC may also assist the Vermont State Nuclear Advisory Panel and the Vermont General Assembly by providing information and advice.

II. STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS

Composition and Qualifications: The ROC shall be comprised of five members. The ROC members will have diverse technical, scientific or regulatory expertise of value in carrying out the Purpose of the ROC.

Appointment and Removal: The ROC members shall be appointed by the Commissioner of the Department and shall serve until resignation or until a successor is duly appointed.

Chairman: The ROC Chairman shall be elected by the members of the ROC. The Chairman will chair all regular sessions of the ROC and set the agenda for ROC meetings. The members of the ROC will determine the term length for the Chair.

Staff: Staff services for the ROC shall be furnished by the Department. The Department will also provide web space on its website that will be clearly marked as a ROC information area. The ROC website will be used to share information with the public that the ROC agrees upon and believes would be useful to the public, subject to Section V below. Nothing deemed proprietary or confidential under a protective agreement or by an order of the Public Service Board or a court of competent jurisdiction shall be posted on the website.

Compensation: ROC members shall be compensated at reasonable hourly rate to be determined by the Department.

III. MEETINGS

The ROC shall meet four (4) times annually publicly as a minimum. Minutes of these four public meetings shall be taken and posted on the ROC website. The ROC is encouraged to take comments from the public at its public meetings. The Commissioner of the Department may convene the ROC as needed in addition to the four mandated meetings. The ROC itself can recommend to DPS that additional

meetings may be required if it believes that circumstances so dictate. The ROC is not a public body but a group of consultants working for the Department. Accordingly, other than the four public meetings, the ROC, or any members thereof, can meet together or with the Department and discuss issues in person, by electronic mail or teleconference as it deems necessary. As consultants working for the Department, the ROC is subject to the Access to Public Records law through the Department.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

Duties and responsibilities of the ROC are to fulfill the Purpose of the ROC set forth in Section I of this Charter. To discharge its oversight role, the ROC is empowered to analyze, study or investigate matters of interest or concern that the ROC deems appropriate after consultation and agreement by the Department. Either ROC members or DPS may propose areas of interest or concern. In addition, the Department may call on individual ROC members for consultation on issues as needed. From time to time, as determined by the ROC after consultation and agreement by the Department, the ROC may issue public reports of the full ROC.

V. DIFFERING PROFESSIONAL OPINIONS

Free and open discussion of technical and scientific issues is encouraged and expected. However a differing professional opinion can arise when a ROC member is convinced that the Department or the people of the State of Vermont would be better served if another professional opinion prevailed relative to a technical or scientific decision. If a ROC member believes that in order to promote the Vermont general welfare a different opinion should prevail than that decided upon by ROC, the ROC member with the differing opinion shall present that opinion to the ROC along with the rationale for the submitters views, including any documented supporting material and probable harm if the opinion of the submitter is not accepted. The ROC will review the materials provided and determine if the ROC will change its opinion. If not, the ROC shall also document its decision. In a case where the ROC does not change its opinion to that of the submitter of the differing professional opinion, the materials documenting the different opinions may be posted on the ROC website if the ROC deems it appropriate. The differing professional opinion shall not be posted on the ROC website until this differing professional opinion process has been completed. Nothing herein shall prevent individual consultation and opinions with respect to subject matter expertise of individual ROC members.

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