

Approved @
VSNAP meeting
on 10/19/11.

Vermont State Nuclear Advisory Panel

Minutes of 4/27/2011 Meeting at the Vernon Elementary School, 381 Governor Hunt Road, Vernon, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

Attendance:

VSNAP Members

Commissioner Elizabeth Miller, Chair
Representative Sarah Edwards
Dr. William E. Irwin, Sc.D., CHP (Representing Secretary Doug Racine)
Senator Mark MacDonald
Mr. Lawrence Becker (Representing Secretary Deb Markowitz)
Mr. Bill Burton
Mr. Jim Matteau

Department of Public Service Staff

Uldis Vanags
Sarah Hofmann

Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee

Bernie Buteau, State Liaison Engineer
Jager Smith, Entergy

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Miller at approximately 6:00 PM on April 27, 2011.

Chair Miller began the meeting by thanking the VSNAP members and the public for attending, and the VSNAP members introduced themselves. Chair Miller noted that the Agenda of this meeting will focus on the Vermont Yankee decommissioning plan and options. Chair Miller discussed that significant events have occurred since the last VSNAP meeting in February 2010. In particular, the accident of the Fukushima nuclear power reactors in Japan and the granting of a renewed license by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to operate the Vermont Yankee nuclear power station until 2032. In addition, Vermont Yankee announced that it was no longer pursuing the sale of the nuclear station and Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee filed a Federal law suit seeking relief from Vermont legal requirements to operate the power station beyond March 21, 2012.

The February 22, 2010 minutes were approved by all Panel members with the correction that Dr. Irwin and Mr. Becker represented Secretary Doug Racine and Secretary Deb Markowitz, respectively. Chair Miller reviewed the agenda for the evening and the Panel voted unanimously to accept it.

Sarah Hofmann, Director of Public Advocacy presented a brief overview of decommissioning regulations, decommissioning history, the recent NRC identified shortfalls in the ENVY decommissioning fund, and a history of the decommissioning fund balance since ENVY purchased the plant in 2002.

Bernie Buteau, State Liaison Engineer for Vermont Yankee, provided a presentation of the Vermont Yankee decommissioning timeline, required submittals to the NRC, and decommissioning mode options.

Christopher Campany Executive Director of the Windom Regional Commission provided testimony to the Panel noting that for reasons of land use and economic development in the county, the Commission advocated prompt decommissioning upon cessation of operations at Vermont Yankee and not the SAFSTOR option.

Chair Miller opened the Panel for discussion and asked Dr. Irwin to provide information and perspective on the Fukushima event. Dr. Irwin noted that one of the measures to monitor the impact of the Fukushima in Vermont, was to monitor the air, water, and other environmental samples for radionuclides from the accident and this information was being shared with Federal Partners such as the EPA and is also available on the DHS website.

Dr. Irwin offered for a future topic to be discussed at VSNAP what mechanisms will be in place to enable the State to continue to fund necessary emergency planning and response and an environmental surveillance program when operations cease at Vermont Yankee and before and after the license is terminated by the NRC.

Public Comments

The Panel heard from members of the public expressing their views on the Vermont Yankee operation.

Conclusion

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15 PM on April 27, 2011. A recording of this meeting was made and is available from the Vermont Department of Public Service.