Memorandum
Vermont Department of Public Service

To: VSNAP
From: Sarah Hofmann, Deputy Commissioner SH
Subject: Questions asked by public at December 14, 2011 VSNAP meeting
Date: December 29, 2011

At the December 14, 2011 meeting of VSNAP, the public made comments and asked questions. I recorded questions that were directed at the NRC and sent them to Doug Tift, State Liaison Officer for Region 1 of the NRC, for answers. Below in bold are the answers I received.

1. This was not a question as much as a statement but I thought we should know the answer. One commentor expressed concern that NRC has allowed NEI to be the collector of all the data on Fukushima. The concern is that with the NEI filter, there is no hope of finding out what really happened. Is it true that NRC has ceded this project over to NEI?

No, this is not true. The NRC receives data directly from licensee's and in the case of Fukushima, we received information from our team that was in Japan during the event. Note the independent work performed by the NRC Near Term Task Force and onsite inspections performed by the NRC following the Fukushima event. Although, NEI may be collecting similar data from licensee's for its own purposes.

2. One commentor said in March of 2010 that Scott R was on a call regarding a Ray Shadis 2.206 petition about Fitzpatrick and Scott said he was the "acting Sr. Resident Inspector at VY." How could that be?

Scott was Acting Senior Resident Inspector at Vermont Yankee around that time frame, so this statement is correct. An 'Acting Resident Inspector' is filling in for the resident inspector on a temporary basis. Situations where the NRC assigns an Acting Resident Inspector include extended sick leave or training of one of the permanent resident inspectors and to fill in until a permanent replacement can be identified after the retirement or promotion of one of the permanent resident inspectors. Acting Resident Inspectors are on official travel and live in the area while assigned to a site on a temporary basis and are expected to function as a permanently assigned resident inspector.

3. Did the plants at Fukushima take credit for containment overpressure? Was containment overpressure a contributing factor in what happened at Fukushima?

Credit for containment overpressure is referring to a licensee taking credit for the pressurization of containment to provide adequate net positive suction head (NPSH) for emergency core cooling system (ECCS) pumps in an application for a power uprate. Typically, NPSH for the ECCS pumps is accomplished through static head alone, ie not including the expected

containment accident pressure in the calculation. I don't know whether or not Fukushima took credit for containment overpressure in the calculations for the NPSH of the ECCS pumps. But this did not come into play in the Fukushima accident. Fukushima's turbine driven systems had enough NPSH to operate until they failed for other reasons.

4. Is there somewhere a list of all amendments, waivers and exemptions granted for Vermont Yankee? If so, where could that be found?

Amendments and exemptions can be found in ADAMS: (There is no category of NRC documents called waivers)

http://adams.nrc.gov/wba