

## **Vermont State Nuclear Advisory Panel**

**Minutes of July 9, 2012 Meeting at the Vermont Statehouse, State Street,  
Montpelier, VT from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm.**

### **Attendance:**

#### **VSNAP Members**

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

#### **Department of Public Service Staff**

Uldis Vanags  
Sarah Hofmann

#### **Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee**

Bernie Buteau, State Liaison Engineer  
Mike Romeo, Nuclear Safety Director

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Miller at approximately 6:30 PM on June 27, 2012.

Chair Miller began the meeting by introducing the VSNAP members and reviewing the mission of the VSNAP (Panel). Chair Miller noted that Dr. Leslie Kanat, professor of geology at Johnson State College, joins the VSNAP as the second public member. A vote to approve the minutes of the last meeting with minor corrections was approved by all Panel members with a motion to accept by Dr. Irwin and seconded by Jim Matteau.

Chair Miller then reviewed the status of three motions from the last meeting (12/14/11). First, a motion passed at the previous meeting to include topic recommendations for upcoming VSNAP meetings in the annual report which was reviewed by the Panel later in this meeting. Second, a motion from the last meeting to have a joint letter from Commissioner Miller, Department of Health, and Department of Environmental Conservation sent to Entergy requesting testing of the COB well was fulfilled by letter dated 12/27/11. Third, a motion from the previous meeting to make the VSNAP website available to the public was also accomplished.

Of the four action items from the previous meeting, the status of NRC providing answers to questions from members of the public (pertaining to their presentation on Fukushima regulatory actions taken by the NRC), and VEM to provide information concerning the utilization of four lanes on Interstate 91 for an emergency route require follow-up. The remaining two action items for the Department to post the NRC May 13, 2011 inspection report on the VSNAP website and prepare the draft VSNAP annual report have been accomplished.

The Panel reviewed the draft annual report. Panel members offered corrections, and Jim Matteau initiated a motion to have the Director of VEM respond to the Panel on emergency planning issues raised in a letter from the Town of Dummerston submitted at the previous VSNAP meeting. Dr. Irwin seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Dr. Kanat suggested that the annual report include all the actions items and measures taken. Chair Miller stated that the Department will consider this recommendation to include the actions items and resolution. Chair Miller initiated a motion to provisionally accept the annual report pending the corrections received from Panel members and recommendation by Dr. Kanat to include actions items and their resolution in the report. The motion was moved by Jim Matteau and seconded by Rep. Edwards, and was passed unanimously.

Mr. Buteau, State Liaison Engineer for Vermont Yankee, presented a power point presentation on Vermont Yankee's response to the Fukushima event as a result of actions taken by the nuclear industry and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. During this presentation two questions were asked where Mr. Romeo of Vermont Yankee said he would provide answers. The questions were: (1) How long can the cooling water basin provide cooling until the water volume would need to be replenished, and (2) is Vermont Yankee going to respond to the NRC request to the industry for a voluntary response to a 2.206 petition by the Union of Concern Scientist.

Discussion among Panel Members resulted in several actions items. Rep. Sarah Edwards asked Uldis Vanags where the section on the cable inspection can be found in the Comprehensive Reliability Assessment. In a future meeting of the VSNAP, the Panel would like ANR to provide a presentation on the thermal discharge of VY condenser cooling water into the river and the monitoring points. Also, a request was made to Vermont Yankee for a revised spent fuel loading schedule at Vermont Yankee.

Uldis Vanags, State Nuclear Engineer, provided an update on issues that the Department is following and providing comment to the NRC. The Chair requested that a memo of these items and status be provided to the VSNAP. The Chair discussed that questions posed by Dr. Kanat on Vermont Yankee's operations that he had sent by electronic mail to the Department. Written answers to the questions were distributed and also made available on the VSNAP website.

### Public Comments

The Panel heard from members of the public expressing their views on the Vermont Yankee operation, as well as views on the Department's involvement on litigation matters. The following public participants commented:

- **Rich Garant**
- **Deborah Stolleroff of SAGE Alliance**
- **Meredith Angwin**
- **Al Blakey said he would submit a written comment which he did the next day. That comment was posted on the VSNAP website.**

## Agenda Items Identified for Next VSNAP Meeting

- 1) Invite FEMA and VEMA to the next VSNAP meeting to discuss Emergency Planning issues.

## Conclusion

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 PM on June 27, 2012. A recording of this meeting was made and is available on the VSNAP website.

## Motions Passed with Deliverables

- (1) A motion was passed to have the Director of VEM respond to the Panel on emergency planning and response issues raised in a letter from the Town of Dummerston submitted at the previous VSNAP.
- (2) A motion was passed to provisionally accept the annual report pending the corrections received from Panel members and recommendation by Dr. Kanat to include actions items and their resolution in the report.

## Action Items

- 1) Mr. Romeo of Vermont Yankee said he would provide answers to the following: (1) How long can the cooling water basin provide cooling until the water volume would need to be replenished, and (2) is Vermont Yankee going to respond to the NRC request to the industry for a voluntary response to a 2.206 petition by the Union of Concerned Scientist.
- 2) Rep. Sarah Edwards asked Uldis Vanags where the section on the cable inspection can be found in the Comprehensive Reliability Assessment. In a future meeting of the VSNAP, the Panel would like ANR to provide a presentation on the thermal discharge of VY condenser cooling water into the river and the monitoring points.
- 3) A request was made to Vermont Yankee for a revised spent fuel loading schedule at Vermont Yankee.
- 4) The Chair requested that Uldis Vanags provide a summary to the VSNAP on issues that the Department is following at Vermont Yankee and the NRC.

