



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs, Region I
475 Allendale Road, King of Prussia, Pa.

www.nrc.gov

No. I-07-030

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May 17, 2007

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NRC TO DISCUSS PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF LICENSE RENEWAL INSPECTION FOR VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT ON MAY 24

The preliminary results of an NRC inspection associated with the license renewal application for the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant will be presented during a public meeting on Thursday, May 24. The purpose of the inspection is to examine whether the plant's program for managing the effects of aging on key safety systems, structures and components is adequate and appropriate for a 20-year license extension.

NRC staff will discuss the results of the inspection with representatives of Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., which owns and operates the Vernon, Vt., facility. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. at the Latchis Theatre, at 50 Main St. in Brattleboro, Vt. (Directions are available on the theatre's web site at: <http://www.latchis.com/location.html> .) There will also be an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions about the review prior to the meeting's adjournment.

On Jan. 27, 2006, the NRC received an application from Entergy seeking to renew the operating license for the Vermont Yankee plant for an additional 20 years. The current operating license for the plant is due to expire on March 21, 2012. Under NRC regulations, the original operating license for a commercial nuclear power plant has a term of 40 years. The license can be renewed for up to an additional two decades if NRC requirements are met.

The aging management inspection is one of a number of NRC activities involved in evaluating a license renewal application.

Additional information concerning license renewal in general and the Vermont Yankee application in particular can be found at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal.html>

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