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General Information**Assigned Office:** OEDO**OEDO Due Date:** 03/19/2013**Other Assignees:****SECY Due Date:** 03/19/2013**Date Response****Requested by Originator:** 03/27/2013**Other Parties:****Subject:** Request for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to Alter Plans to Hold Open House Style Meetings to Review the 2012 Performance of Pilgrim and Seabrook**Description:****CC Routing:** NRR, OCA, OGC, Region I**ADAMS Accession Numbers - Incoming:****Response / Package:****Other Information****Cross Reference No:** LTR-13-0224**SRM/Other:** No**Process Information****Action Type:** Letter**OEDO Concurrence:** No**Signature Level:** Chairman Macfarlane**OCM Concurrence:** No**Special Instructions:****OCA Concurrence:** No

Please prepare response in accordance with OEDO Notice 2009-0441-02 (ML093290179). NRR and Region I to provide input to Roger Rihm, OEDO, if required. Roger Rihm will coordinate response with OGC and OCA. Note: Response should be provided before the Seabrook Meeting scheduled for March 27, 2013 (see background).

Document Information**Originator Name:** Representative Edward J. Markey/Rep. John F.**Date of Incoming:** 03/18/2013**Originator Org:** Congress**Document Received by OEDO Date:** 03/18/2013**Addressee:** Chairman Macfarlane**Incoming Task:** Letter**OEDO POC:** Roger Rihm

Template: SECY-017

E-RIDS: SECY-01

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Mar 18, 2013 14:11

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-13-0224

LOGGING DATE: 03/18/2013

ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: REP Edward Markey, et al.

AFFILIATION: CONG

ADDRESSEE: CHRM Allison Macfarlane

SUBJECT: Urges the NRC to alter its plans to hold open house style meetings to review the 2012 performance of both the Pilgrim Nuclear Generating Station and the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant

ACTION: Signature of Chairman

DISTRIBUTION: RF, OCA to Ack.

LETTER DATE: 03/18/2013

ACKNOWLEDGED No

SPECIAL HANDLING: Commission Correspondence

NOTES: Response should be provided before the Seabrook meeting scheduled for March 27, 2013. See background.

FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE: 03/19/2013

DATE SIGNED:

Received OEDO:
3/18/2013, 4:00PM

EDO --G20130209

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 18, 2013

The Honorable Allison Macfarlane
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Chairman Macfarlane:

We write to urge the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to alter its plans to hold "open house" style meetings to review the 2012 performance of both the Pilgrim Nuclear Generating Station¹ and the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant², because they enable only small group or one-on-one question and answer sessions rather than a more transparent "public meeting" in which all attendees can hear the responses to all questions that are asked. We additionally request that appropriate NRC technical subject matter experts be present and available at this meeting to answer questions the public may have, and that the NRC presentations provide plant-specific operating, enforcement and safety information and statistics, utilizing plant engineers to supplement headquarters staff to respond to questions as appropriate.

Last year, Reps. Markey and Tierney requested³ that a public meeting be held regarding Seabrook in response to a similar NRC plan to move to the more restrictive "open house" format. Then, like now, residents of Massachusetts and New Hampshire contacted our offices to express their strong opposition to this apparent effort to restrict the historically more open nature of NRC meetings. The Commission ultimately decided to hold this safety-related public meeting at Seabrook. However, the "open house" format has been used for the past two years at the Pilgrim Nuclear Generating Station. According to one attendee, this format is "the equivalent of a cocktail party where folks chat to each NRC official. It is simply a PR event. Perhaps if they served cocktails it may not be a total waste of time!"

We have also learned that even the formats of recent public meetings left much to be desired. For example, we have been informed⁴ that last year at Seabrook "no engineers from Seabrook were expected to address the plant's operating experience as a responsible engineer or plant executive. We did not know who was there from the plant in the room. The NRC tightly controlled the proceedings with little reporting as they focused the majority of their time on a slide presentation of safety assurances post Fukushima and not focused on the plant's regulatory compliance or operating experience. ... The slide presentation was a canned presentation and not plant specific."

¹ <http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1307/ML13072A678.pdf>

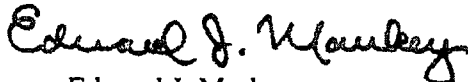
² <http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1307/ML13073A186.pdf>

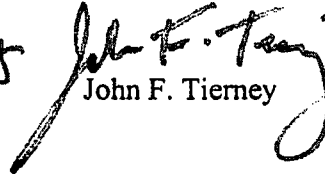
³ <http://markey.house.gov/press-release/markey-tierney-call-local-public-meeting-seabrook-nuclear-power-plant-discuss-safety>

⁴ Email from an attendee at last year's Seabrook public meeting to Rep. Markey's office.

We believe that NRC's failure to conduct a public meeting to assess the 2012 performance of both Seabrook and Pilgrim would further undermine the public trust in the Commission's ability and willingness to assure the safety of these reactors. We urge you to alter the format of the "open house" meetings currently planned, and make every effort to ensure that the sort of reactor-specific information and knowledgeable personnel are included and available. We look forward to your prompt response to this request.

Sincerely,


Edward J. Markey


John F. Tierney


Bill Keating

Background

MN No. 13-002

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

March 14, 2013

Licensee: NextEra Energy, Seabrook, LLC

Facilities: Seabrook Station, Unit No. 1 (Seabrook)

Docket Nos: 50-443

Date/ Time: March 27, 2013, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Location: Best Western Plus The Inn at Hampton
815 Lafayette Road
Hampton, New Hampshire, 03842
(603) 926-6771

Purpose: The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will meet with the public to discuss the NRC's assessment of safety performance at Seabrook for 2012, as described in the annual assessment letter dated March 4, 2013. The NRC will respond to questions on specific performance issues at the plant and our role in ensuring safe plant operations.

NRC Attendees: G. Dentel, Chief, Division of Reactor Projects, Branch 3
M. Marshall, Chief, Aging Management of Structures, Electrical, and Systems Branch
R. Conte, Senior Project Manager, Division of Reactor Safety
W. Cook, Senior Reactor Analyst, Division of Reactor Safety
P. McKenna, Acting Senior Resident Inspector, Seabrook
W. Raymond, Operations Engineer, Inspections, Tests, Analyses and Acceptance Criteria Branch
M. Jennerich, Resident Inspector, Seabrook

Public Participation: This is a Category 3 Meeting. The NRC will host an open house to discuss NextEra's performance at Seabrook during calendar year 2012. NRC staff will be available, in an informational setting, to answer questions from members of the public and discuss issues or concerns related to Seabrook.

Meeting Contact: Glenn T. Dentel, Chief, Projects Branch 3
(610) 337-5233
E-mail: Glenn.Dentel@NRC.Gov

The NRC's annual assessment letter regarding Seabrook's performance during 2012 can be found in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) with Accession Number ML13063A194. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC website at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Additional information relative to the NRC's annual assessment process and the safety performance of Seabrook can be found on the NRC's website at: <http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/index.html>.

The NRC's Policy Statement, "Enhancing Public Participation in NRC Meetings," effective May 28, 2002, applies to this meeting. The policy statement may be found on the NRC website, <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/policy/67fr36920.html>, and contains information regarding visitors and security.

The NRC provides reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities where appropriate. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting, or need the meeting notice or other information from the meeting in another format (e.g., Braille, large print), please notify the NRC's meeting contact. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis. Persons requiring assistance to attend the meeting shall make their requests known to the NRC meeting contact no later than two business days prior to the meeting.

Attendance by other NRC personnel at this meeting should be made known by March 25, 2013 via telephone to the NRC meeting contact.

Meetings are sometimes canceled or rescheduled as a result of unforeseen circumstances. Please confirm the meeting schedule on the NRC website under public meetings.

/RA/

Approved by: _____

Glenn T. Dentel, Chief
Projects Branch 3
Division of Reactor Projects

cc: Distribution via ListServ

Background

MN No. 13-005

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

March 13, 2013

Licensee: Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.

Facility: Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station

Docket No: 50-293

Date/Time: Tuesday, April 2, 2013
5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m

Location: Plymouth Town Hall
11 Lincoln Street
Plymouth, MA 02360

Purpose: The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will meet with the public to discuss the NRC's assessment of safety performance at Pilgrim for 2012, as described in the annual assessment letter dated March 5, 2013. The NRC will respond to questions on specific performance issues at the plant and our role in ensuring safe plant operations.

NRC Attendees: R. Bellamy, Chief, Division of Reactor Projects, Branch 5
M. Schneider, Senior Resident Inspector
T. Setzer, Senior Project Engineer
B. Smith, Resident Inspector
S. Campbell, Office Assistant

Public Participation: This is a Category 3 Meeting. The NRC staff will hold an open house to discuss Entergy's performance at Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station during calendar year 2012. NRC staff will be available, in an informational setting, to answer questions from members of the public and discuss issues or concerns related to Pilgrim.

Meeting Contact: Ronald R. Bellamy Ph.D., Chief, Projects Branch 5
610-337-5200
E-mail: Ronald.Bellamy@nrc.gov

The NRC's annual assessment letter regarding Pilgrim performance during 2012 can be found in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) with Accession Number ML13060A340. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC website at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Additional information relative to the NRC's annual assessment process and the safety performance of Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station can be found on the NRC's website at: <http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/index.html>.

The NRC's Policy Statement, "Enhancing Public Participation in NRC Meetings," effective May 28, 2002, applies to this meeting. The policy statement may be found on the NRC website, <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/policy/67fr36920.html>, and contains information regarding visitors and security.

The NRC provides reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities where appropriate. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting, or need the meeting notice or other information from the meeting in another format (e.g., Braille, large print), please notify the NRC's meeting contact. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis. Persons requiring assistance to attend the meeting shall make their requests known to the NRC meeting contact no later than two business days prior to the meeting.

Attendance by other NRC personnel at this meeting should be made known by March 26, 2013, via telephone to the NRC meeting contact.

Meetings are sometimes canceled or rescheduled as a result of unforeseen circumstances. Please confirm the meeting schedule on the NRC website under public meetings.

Approved by: */RA Steven Shaffer Acting for/*
Ronald R. Bellamy Ph.D., Chief
Projects Branch 5
Division of Reactor Projects

cc: Distribution via ListServ