April 3, 2019

Office of Administration
Mail Stop: TWFN–7–A60M
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555–0001
ATTN: Program Management, Announcements and Editing Staff

RE: Request for Public Meeting per Docket ID NRC–2019–0073 Agency Activities in Response to a Portion of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act

To whom it may concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Windham Regional Commission (WRC) to request that a public meeting be held in the Vernon/Brattleboro, Vermont area as part of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s (NRC) activities to implement the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act, which includes the development of a report identifying best practices for establishment and operation of local community advisory boards associated with decommissioning activities, including lessons learned from existing boards. The Town of Vernon is the host municipality of the Vermont Yankee (VY) Nuclear Power Station, and adjoining Town of Brattleboro is home to other VY support facilities. The Windham Region contains both towns, as well as the four other emergency planning zone towns within the State of Vermont. The WRC has a seat on the Vermont Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel (NDCAP), though we are submitting this request on our own behalf.

The WRC is the Regional Planning Commission for the region of the state that hosts Vermont Yankee. The Commission is a political subdivision of the State of Vermont, comprised of town-appointed commissioners from the 23 towns of Windham County, the towns of Readsboro, Searsburg and Winhall in Bennington County, and the town of Weston in Windsor County. Our mission is to assist the towns of the region with effective local governance and to work collaboratively with them to address regional issues. In the absence of county government we provide an essential link between local, state and federal government. Vermont Yankee was a major employer and an outsized source of earned income within the region, as well as a source of volunteers and philanthropy. The socioeconomic impacts of its operation and closure have been of major regional significance. Because of its regional significance, the
WRC has been very engaged in a number of issues related to Vermont Yankee, including radiological emergency planning, Vermont Public Utility Commission dockets, and NDCAP (I currently serve as Chair).

The meetings of the Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel are held in Vernon and Brattleboro, and attract interested citizens from throughout the area, including Massachusetts and New Hampshire. As one of the first (if not the first) community advisory boards formed during the new merchant plant decommissioning era, both panelists and community members at large can share lessons-learned since NDCAP’s creation by the state legislature in 2014. We are also in close proximity to the site of Yankee Rowe (about 35 miles or an hour’s drive), so the NRC could benefit from input from that plant’s long-serving advisory board.

Thank you for considering this request. We would be happy to assist you with the identification of appropriate meeting locations in the area. Please contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Chris Campany,
Executive Director