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ROSENBERG CALLS FOR INCREASED WESTERN MASS. PRESENCE IN OVERSIGHT OF VERMONT YANKEE

NINE SENATORS, REPRESENTATIVES IN WESTERN DELEGATION JOIN EFFORT

Nine state legislators representing Franklin and Hampshire counties are joining State Senator Stan Rosenberg's effort to add western Massachusetts representatives to the Vermont Yankee Reliability Oversight Committee being created in the Vermont Department of Public Service to monitor operations at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power plant.

In a letter to Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin, Rosenberg is calling on the governor to add "ex officio, non-voting seats" to the Oversight Committee to represent the concerns of Franklin and Hampshire county communities that are downwind and down-river from the Vernon facility.

"Our constituents have grown increasingly concerned about the potential for contamination arising from the reactor's continued operation," the letter states. ". . . We respectfully request that you consider adding ex officio, non-voting seats to the Reliability Oversight Committee to represent these downwind and down-river communities. We offer to assist you in filling those new seats by helping to find knowledgeable and appropriate representatives for the positions, including making ourselves available to participate on the committee."

In addition to Rosenberg, the letter was signed by State Senators Stephen Brewer (D-Barre) and Benjamin Downing (D-Pittsfield), and State Representatives Denise Andrews (D-Orange), Gailanne Cariddi (D-North Adams), Peter Kocot (D-Northampton), Stephen Kulik (D-Worthington), Paul Mark (D-Hancock), John Scibak (D-South Hadley) and Ellen Story (D-Amherst).

"At best, Vermont Yankee is a troubled facility and our residents deserve to be in the room when issues of health and safety are being discussed," Rosenberg (D-Amherst) said. "I want our friends in Vermont to be able to hear the concerns and insights of folks living on this side of the border as they make decisions about the plant's future."

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