

**Maine Yankee
Community Advisory Panel (CAP) on Decommissioning
Meeting Minutes – Adopted 4/23/03
Thursday, January 16, 2003**

<u>Member</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Paula Craighead, Esq.	Represented by Dr. Phillip Haines
Paul D. Crary M.D., P.A.	Yes
General Lewis Curtis	Yes
Mr. Ted Feigenbaum	Yes
State Senator Chris Hall	Yes
Mr. Don Hudson	Yes
State Representative Ken Honey	Yes
Mr. Steve Jarrett	Yes
Mr. Ralph F. Keyes	Yes
Ms. Marjorie L. Kilkelly	No
Mr. Don Schuman	Yes
Mr. Raymond Shadis	Yes
Mr. Dan Thompson	Yes

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. Vice Chairman Don Hudson acted as Chair for this meeting in the absence of Senator Kilkelly. The Chair welcomed Senator Hall, Representative Honey, and Mr. Feigenbaum as the new CAP members.

Adoption of minutes of 9/12/02 meeting

Mr. Curtis moved that the minutes from the September 12, 2002, meeting be adopted as presented. The motion passed. Mr. Haines abstained.

Meeting Introduction and Regulatory Update

Mr. Michael Meisner, Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer opened his presentation by recognizing the new CAP members and offering Maine Yankee assistance in providing any needed background briefings. Mr. Meisner then pointed out that a lot has happened since the CAP last met in September. Last year and this year are the peak years for the project. Mr. Meisner then updated the CAP members and attendees on the following items.

NAC Contract Termination

Mr. Meisner announced that Maine Yankee needed to enter into a new contractual relationship with NAC International. NAC can't perform under the current contract. As a result, Maine Yankee announced on January 15 that the current contract is terminated. The termination had nothing to do with safety and Maine Yankee had no concerns with NAC's fuel and GTCC systems. The termination is strictly a business decision in that NAC was unable to meet its contract obligations.

A number of options exist including hiring another qualified contractor or self-performing the fuel moves. Maine Yankee expects that NAC will have some yet to be identified on-going role on the project. Maine Yankee is seeking an interim services agreement with NAC so that NAC can continue to work under Maine Yankee's direction during the transition time. NAC has three workers assigned to the site and the remaining fuel-loading workers are subcontractors under contracts that Maine Yankee can assume.

Everything is currently in a safe condition. Eleven fuel canisters are at the ISFSI, one is loaded and sealed in the plant and the remaining fuel assemblies are in the Spent Fuel Pool.

CAP members asked numerous questions about the NAC termination. In response Mr. Meisner stated that the contract was terminated for both inadequate schedule performance and financial condition concerns. Maine Yankee expects to better understand the impact of this move on critical path in a month to six weeks. Maine Yankee has about 15 of 48 remaining canisters on site. All but two of the canisters have been fabricated. NAC and Maine Yankee have been working on various ways to improve the efficiency of the drying process.

VCC Event

Mr. Meisner then stated that fuel loading was on hold to make some upgrades to the crane and address an event involving an empty VCC. An empty VCC was being moved on the heavy haul trailer from the ISFSI to the plant. A thin layer of ice on the bottom surface of the VCC caused the VCC to slide back about 2 feet on air pads resting on the heavy haul trailer as the truck and trailer were backing up a slight grade near the ISFSI. No one was hurt and damage to equipment was minimal. Maine Yankee has stopped container movement work until this issue can be fully investigated and corrective actions addressed. The evaluation determined the cause of the problem to be ice forming between the bottom of the VCC and the air pad. Prior to moving the VCC, ice was melted from the pad surrounding the VCC. The melted ice appears to be the source of the water that froze under the VCC surface.

Security

Mr. Meisner then provided a briefing on the status of various project security issues. Maine Yankee is still at the same heightened level of security. The company has received interim orders from the NRC for ISFSIs. Since the order primarily formalized previous advisories, the project is largely in compliance with them. Also, on January 16 the NRC indicated that Maine Yankee's implementation of the previous spent fuel pool security orders is acceptable pending inspection. The NRC is planning to complete its top to bottom security analysis for operating plants in the March timeframe. New information on the design basis threat will be provided at that time. The relevance of this information for ISFSIs will be determined at a later date.

The State of Maine and Friends of the Coast (FOC) have submitted petitions to the NRC challenging the ISFSI security orders. The State issues are procedural in nature and focus on a hearing request to explore decommissioning/ISFSI related issues, and the FOC is

seeking more security than the NRC order requires. The ASLB is currently reviewing both petitions and holding monthly telephone calls with interested parties. A first status call was held on January 16. The next is scheduled for mid-February.

Eaton Farm

Mr. Meisner then provided the attendees with a briefing on the status of the Eaton Farm area donation to a non-profit group. As part of the 1998 FERC rate case settlement Maine Yankee agreed to donate about 200 acres of land to a non-profit group. In 1999 an RFP was provided to potential donees soliciting proposals for the property. Three proposals were received from the Atlantic Center for Environmental Policy Dialog, Chewonki Foundation, and Town of Wiscasset. In 2001 the three bidders were provided an opportunity to update their proposals. At that time the Chewonki Foundation and the Town of Wiscasset did update their proposals.

Recently, with the approval of its Board, Maine Yankee has entered into discussions with one of the three bidders - the Chewonki Foundation. The purpose of these discussions is to develop an agreement for transfer of this property and the FERC stipulated cash settlement. If the agreement is successfully negotiated, then the transfer will occur later. One CAP member asked if there was anything surprising in these negotiations. Mr. Hudson, representing Chewonki, indicated that there was nothing surprising and the negotiations were just beginning.

Regulatory Update

Mr. Randy Ragland, NRC Region 1 Inspector, provided the attendees with an update on Maine Yankee inspections during the last six months. He spoke from a handout and overhead slides entitled "Maine Yankee Community Advisory Panel Meeting, January 16, 2003," a copy of which is included in these minutes as **Attachment 1**. Mr. Ragland's presentation covered visits and inspection reports, inspection topics, fuel movement into dry storage, fuel crane (CR-3) upgrade, reactor vessel removal, failure to post a high radiation area, alternate discharge pathway, security reviews, missing source procedure violation, emergency preparedness exercise and drill, polar crane demolition, corrective action program, NRC activities, and NRC headquarters issues. The NRC concluded that Maine Yankee's performance was adequate. Emergency drills provided a good training opportunity for plant workers. The corrective action system is effective. A non-cited violation was issued for the failure to post a high rad area because the issue was self-identified and Maine Yankee corrective actions were adequate. The NRC chose to take no enforcement action of the missing source because the source represented an insignificant dose, disposal was adequate, corrective actions were appropriate, and the violation was of minor significance.

CAP members asked numerous questions regarding the missing source procedure violation, the polar crane drop, inspection activities, and the impact of the NAC termination on other decommissioning nuclear power plants.

Decommissioning Update

Mr. Ray Burke, Vice President of Decommissioning, provided the attendees with a briefing on the status of the decommissioning project. Mr. Burke spoke from a handout and overhead slides entitled "Maine Yankee Decommissioning Status, January 16, 2003," a copy of which is included in these minutes as **Attachment 2**. Mr. Burke's presentation compared decommissioning progress in 2002 to that in 2001. His presentation covered overall statistics, safety and dose, fuel and GTCC transfer, reactor vessel, site restoration, and waste. In the course of the presentation Mr. Burke mentioned that Forebay work is continuing in 2003 with the proposed removal of accumulated silt and the establishment of an upland marsh in the middle and western portions of the forebay. Mr. Burke also stated that polar crane cutting work was currently on hold while the project addresses an incident involving the cutting of a piece of the crane. No one was injured, but a man lift was damaged. One CAP member requested that Maine Yankee include safety incidence rates and how they compare to industry averages in future presentations.

Licensing Refresher and Environmental Impact Issues

After a brief break Mr. Thomas Williamson provided the attendees with a briefing on nuclear and environmental licensing issues. He spoke from a handout and overhead slides entitled "Licensing Refresher and Environmental Impact Issues," a copy of which is included with these minutes as **Attachment 3**. Mr. Williamson's presentation covered licensing and environmental strategy, plant decommissioning regulations and permits, ISFSI operation requirements, site land release requirements, backlands release, release of remaining non-ISFSI land, ISFSI decommissioning, and licensing and environmental end state.

Mr. Michael Whitney then provided a briefing on the status of the Maine Yankee License Termination Plan (LTP). He spoke from a handout and slides entitled "Maine Yankee License Termination Plan Update," a copy of which is included in these minutes as **Attachment 4**. Mr. Whitney's presentation covered LTP update, NRC license termination process, functions of the LTP, contents of LTP Revision 3, site radiological release criteria, LTP chronology, and key settlement agreement actions.

CAP members asked questions regarding site release criteria and ISFSI licensing. Mr. Shadis pointed out that the State of New Jersey has a 15 mrem/year site release criteria and Massachusetts has a 10 mrem/year release criteria in its regulations.

Public comment

Chair Hudson asked if any one in the audience wished to address the CAP and none chose to do so.

Committee Business/Discussions

Mr. Eric Howes stated that Maine Yankee would not be ready to cover post decommissioning ISFSI management organization at the April 17 CAP meeting. The CAP requested that Maine Yankee cover Forebay remediation in April, and FSS and NRC verification in the Spray building at the July 17 meeting. CAP members also

requested an update on Containment demolition and a speaker from the Department of Energy.

Mr. Howes stated that he would be in touch with CAP members regarding an early April plant tour.

Meeting adjourned at about 8:30 PM.

Next meeting April 17, 2003