

**Maine Yankee  
Community Advisory Panel (CAP) on Decommissioning  
Meeting Minutes - Adopted 7/17/03  
Wednesday, April 23, 2003**

<u>Member</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Paula Craighead, Esq.	Yes
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	Yes
Mr. Don Schuman	No
Mr. Raymond Shadis	Yes
Mr. Dan Thompson	Yes

Chair Senator Kilkelly called meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**Meeting Introduction and Regulatory Update**

Mr. Michael Meisner, Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer started his presentation with a brief discussion of first quarter progress. Decommissioning progress was slow during the first quarter but is ramping up now. Mr. Meisner then briefed the attendees on the following activities.

Self-performance after NAC

As was pointed out last meeting, Maine Yankee was not satisfied with NAC's performance in moving fuel. The Company identified a number of efficiency improvements (and continue to identify more) which are beginning to be phased in. Mr. Burke will discuss some of them. Management is optimistic that they will contribute to maintaining the schedule. As fuel is moved in self performance for the first time or efficiency changes are made, increased oversight in the field to identify mistakes is emphasized. Maine Yankee oversight personnel are actively looking for, finding, documenting, and correcting problems and management is pleased to see already a decreasing trend in problems in fuel movement.

FSS

Maine Yankee is beginning to finish significant areas of remediation within and without buildings. Once remediation is completed in an area, "turnover" surveys to see if the area

is ready for final status survey are performed. The procedural requirements for turnover surveys are different from those of remediation surveys, which technicians have been performing for some time. As these survey procedures are implemented with new technicians (that are qualified and trained) management expects, as with fuel moves, to find learning curve problems. Supervisors are, therefore, actively looking for, finding, documenting and correcting those problems. The oversight and checking processes are working and, as with fuel moves, management expects to see a decreasing trend in identified problems for turnover surveys.

#### NAC Settlement Agreement signed

On April 22 Maine Yankee signed a settlement agreement with NAC that allows completion of the remaining canisters and provides engineering and licensing support to the fuel transfer project.

#### LTP Approval

The NRC approved the License Termination Plan (LTP) in late February. Throughout the review and approval process there was constructive interaction between Maine Yankee and the State of Maine and Friends of the Coast.

#### Confirmatory surveys

Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) and the NRC will be at the plant to perform confirmatory surveys in the basement of the Primary Auxiliary Building (PAB) early next month. The State of Maine will also be observing these confirmatory surveys.

#### RCRA

Maine is finishing RCRA work on the backlands and focusing on Bailey Point. Maine Yankee expects that MDEP will be hosting a public meeting on the Maine Yankee RCRA process in October. CAP may wish to have a RCRA update at its July meeting.

#### RPV Shipment

Maine Yankee has responded to an allegation filed with the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). The anonymous allegation raises questions about the fabrication of the RPV shipping container and cover. This fabrication work was done three years ago, but the allegation was not raised until now. Maine Yankee also had questions when the RPV cover was originally fabricated and S&W had a new cover fabricated by a different vendor. The cover welds were fully tested prior to using the new cover. Also the cover trunions were used to lift the vessel in its container out of containment. The lifting trunions are not expected to be used again to lift the vessel and container. Maine Yankee is working with DOT to address the allegation and does not expect the allegation to hold up shipment. (Note: DOT closed the allegation issue in a letter to Maine Yankee dated May 2, 2003.)

The RPV shipment is similar to the shipment of the steam generators and pressurizer that occurred in 2000. The Coast Guard has established a Marine Safety Zone around the

barge when loaded. This zone will move with the loaded barge until it reaches the ocean. Maine Yankee has provided a heads up to wormers, clambers, and lobster persons.

### Security

Maine Yankee has responded to the NRC orders on ISFSI security and received NRC acceptance. We expect the NRC to issue a new security design basis threat for operating plants any day now. It will probably be some time before the NRC completes its work on the ISFSI security design basis threat.

Filings are being exchanged between Maine Yankee, NRC staff, Friends of the Coast (FOC), the State of Maine, and the ASLB on whether the State or FOC have standing to challenge the ISFSI order. There will probably be an "in camera" hearing (confidential because of subject matter) to resolve the standing issue in early June.

### New NRC Commission Chair

NRC Chairman Meserve has resigned and the White House appointed Niels Diaz as new Chair. Chairman Diaz has been a long time NRC Commissioner. He is a nuclear engineer with a practical and academic background.

### Test Blasts

Maine Yankee is planning to conduct very low yield test blasts inside buildings on April 25. The purpose of the tests is to determine if explosives can be used to soften concrete inside the containment and Spray buildings in the future. The first blast is expected to occur at about 8:30am and all the blasts are expected to be completed by early afternoon. Ms Craighead asked if the dust from the blast would be contained inside the buildings. Mr. Meisner responded that he expected that it would be and there would be monitoring to verify this containment.

### **State of Maine Update**

Mr. Pat Dostie, State Nuclear Safety Inspector, provided the CAP with an update of the activities and issues of his office. He spoke from a handout entitled "State of Maine Update," a copy of which is included with the records of this meeting as **Attachment 1**. Mr. Dostie's presentation covered past activities, recent activities, and State issues. During his presentation he provided preliminary results of his cavity water discharge sampling program which included 150 environmental samples: <sup>137</sup>Cs values were barely detectable, tritium was detected but the levels were not high, and he was evaluating a question on lobster data. The State performed a verification survey in the Spray building. The State performed a concrete gamma survey, which indicated elevated areas not detected by Maine Yankee's beta-only survey. A report on the survey has been provided to Maine Yankee and Maine Yankee has responded. Mr. Dostie observed the reactor vessel lift and took more photos than anybody else: 132 for Pat versus 127 for Maine Yankee. Mr. Dostie also monitored the spent fuel moves to the ISFSI, forebay disposition, rerouting of the water discharge line, and LTP process. His documents have been shipped to State archives. He has changed the power source for his monitors to solar panels. Mr. Dostie also discussed the issues he is currently following: including

schedule pressure, replacement of his assistant, oversight, hot side demolition, and ground water monitoring.

Senator Kilkelly asked Mr. Dostie if he had performed risk calculations on his cavity water discharge monitoring results. Mr. Dostie said that he had not. Mr. Keyes asked if monitoring had been done further afield. Mr. Dostie responded that it had not been done recently.

### **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 entitled "Maine Yankee Decommissioning Status, April 23, 2003," a copy of which is included in the meeting record as **Attachment 2**. Mr. Burke's discussed progress in the first quarter of 2003. His presentation covered overall progress, safety and dose, fuel transfer project, site restoration, and waste.

CAP members asked when the spent fuel loading and campaign containment demolition are expected to be completed. Mr. Burke responded if vacuum drying time can meet expected targets, then the loading could be completed in the first quarter of 2004. The Containment demolition is scheduled to be complete late next year.

Also the ISFSI security system was discussed in light of a recent Seabrook Station alarm. Mr. Meisner informed the attendees that occasionally false alarms occur, the security system would be tuned up at the end of the summer, and some false alarms were unavoidable.

### **RPV Shipment Plan**

Mr. Burke also provided the attendees with an update on plans to ship the reactor vessel to a federally licensed low level waste disposal facility in Barnwell, South Carolina. He spoke from a handout entitled "Reactor Pressure Vessel (RPV) Shipment to Barnwell," a copy of which is included with the records of this meeting as **Attachment 3**. Mr. Burke's presentation covered preparations for shipment, RPV package and package characteristics, transport to the barge, Marine Safety Zone, local barge transport to ocean, barge transport to the Savannah River site, transport to Barnwell, and current shipment schedule.

### **Forebay Remediation Plan**

Mr. Terry Peacock provided the CAP with a briefing on forebay remediation activities planned for 2003. He spoke from an handout entitled "2003 Forebay Remediation Activities," a copy of which is included in the records of this meeting as **Attachment 4**. Mr. Peacock's presentation covered forebay sampling, regulatory approvals, forebay remediation approach, and equipment to be used in de-watering the sediment removed from the forebay.

### **Committee Business/Discussion**

### **Adoption of minutes of 1/16/03 meeting**

General Curtis moved that the minutes from the January 16, 2003, meeting be adopted as presented. The motion passed.

### **Report on Regulatory Information Conference**

Ms. Craighead provided the attendees with a briefing on the recent NRC Regulatory Information Conference. She also provided the CAP with some of the handouts that she obtained from the conference. Ms. Craighead covered the three major NRC focus areas: safety culture, spent fuel management, and new reactor licensing.

### **Proposed Trail**

Mr. Hudson requested a few minutes at the next CAP meeting to present an idea on a trail in Wiscasset involving Maine Yankee land.

### **Security discussion**

Ms. Craighead pointed out that the NRC looks to licensees to engage state and local response as needed. As the design basis threat changes then state and local response could be expected to change. A discussion of level of response needed then ensued.

Mr. Meisner pointed out that Maine Yankee has done more than others in the industry. A more rational approach to security could be achieved by understanding what the threat is. Maine Yankee has in place more than enough to respond to reasonable threats. An NRC analysis on the design basis threat has concluded that no off site release would occur.

Mr. Shadis pointed out that there are a number of ballistic weapons that could punch a hole in a cask. It is ludicrous to say that there is security at Maine Yankee considering the time it would take for the police make it to Maine Yankee. The NRC analysis letter was one of most overboard letters - If the licensee lost control - do what you will - there is no off site release. It is perfectly ludicrous to assume that if you surrender control there would be no off site dose. Various weapons have demonstrated the ability to puncture reinforced concrete. People should "Tune into what the information is."

Mr. Meisner stated that he agreed with Mr. Shadis that people should tune into what the information is. It is easy to talk in generalities. There are a number of barriers in place to deal with the kinds of threats Mr. Shadis mentioned.

General Curtis pointed out that in his experience it is easy to oversimplify the security questions.

### **Public comment**

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

**Meeting adjourned** at about 8:10 PM.

**The next meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2003. DOE will again be asked to provide a speaker.**

