

**Maine Yankee  
Community Advisory Panel (CAP) on Decommissioning  
Meeting Minutes, Thursday, July 17, 2003 – Adopted 9/10/03**

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

Chair Senator Kilkelly called meeting to order at 6:00 PM. The CAP members introduced themselves.

**Meeting Introduction and Fuel Transfer and Regulatory Update**

Mr. Michael Meisner, Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer started his presentation by stating that the decommissioning project is about 80% and the dose is about 45% of the NRC limit. Mr. Meisner also introduced Rocky Benner as the new Decommissioning Director replacing Ray Burke in that role. There will be more staff departures particularly at the completion of the Fuel Transfer Project.

Mr. Meisner also mentioned the shipment of the reactor vessel, the impending demolition of the northern part of the Turbine hall, and the movement of security and control room to the Staff building. He also stated that the NRC has approved a technical specification change that allows operators to be more involved with monitoring fuel movement activities instead of being required to stay in the control room all the time.

The Fuel Transfer Project is now proceeding smoothly, safely, and efficiently. Currently the 28<sup>th</sup> canister is being loaded and will proceed into vacuum drying in a short time.

NRC Region 1 has completed their first inspection report for 2003. In general the results were positive. The report included one notice of low-level (Level IV) violation regarding the VCC icing related slip incident that Maine Yankee reported to the NRC and the CAP earlier this year. The proposed violation is not safety related. It involves a process question. After the VCC slip incident Maine Yankee performed a new safety analysis that indicated that VCC slipping was acceptable and the probable consequences

of the incident were bounded by prior safety analysis and therefore no license amendment was needed. The NRC agreed with the safety analysis but decided a request for license amendment was needed. Maine Yankee and the NRC are in cordial disagreement on this issue and Maine Yankee has submitted a letter to the NRC stating the basis for this disagreement.

Oak Ridge Institute of Science and Education (ORISE) was at the plant in May to perform in-process FSS surveys. They are developing a report of their effort. At one of the debriefing sessions ORISE expressed surprise that they had not found anything that Maine Yankee had not already found. The State also performed surveys with similar results.

The Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) is holding an LTP workshop in Portland and at the plant in September. This workshop will enable technical specialists from the US and other countries to talk with us about our LTP accomplishments. They wish to "learn from the best."

The forebay project is going quite well. We plan to use the forebay equipment to remediate the sediment at one of the storm water outfalls. The sediment at this outfall was contaminated with oil from a transformer failure in the early 1990s.

On July 11 the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board held a meeting on the State's security petition to the NRC. The purpose of the hearing was to determine if the State had standing. Maine Yankee expects a decision in six to eight weeks.

Terry Peacock will be providing a briefing later on the physical end state of the site. One issue that Terry will be covering relates to expected elevated noise levels related to containment demolition. Maine Yankee sent out a letter to neighbors alerting them to this issue and inviting them to this meeting to begin the dialogue on this issue.

As the end of decommissioning approaches in a year and one half to two years, Maine Yankee is finding increased interest in site reuse. We are continuing to receive ideas and proposals. We will share information with the CAP when appropriate to do so.

### **Regulatory Update: NRC**

Mr. Mark Roberts, NRC Region 1 Senior Health Physicist, provided the CAP with an update on regional and headquarters NRC activities in 2003. He spoke from a handout and slides entitled "Maine Yankee Community Advisory Panel Meeting," a copy of which is included in the records of this meeting as **Attachment 1**. Mr. Robert's presentation covered NRC visits, teleconferences, and inspection reports, inspection report topics, inspection report areas and key findings, NRC headquarters activities, and future inspection areas.

During the discussion of the approval of the License Termination Plan, Mr. Meisner pointed out that the Friends of the Coast and the State of Maine worked hard with Maine Yankee to develop an LTP that was acceptable to all.

Mr. Hudson asked for a presentation on the spent fuel pool water discharge path at an upcoming CAP meeting.

Ms. Craighead asked when ORISE was coming back to perform confirmatory surveys that include completed FSS release packages, since complete packages were not available for the May in-process survey. Mr. Roberts responded that the return would be no sooner than mid-September.

Mr. Keyes asked about the control room staffing license amendment. Mr. Roberts explained that while a control room had a place at an operating nuclear power plant, it was a misnomer at a decommissioning plant. No monitoring in the control room is required and safety is better served by having the operators out monitoring the fuel transfer effort. Ms. Kilkelly pointed out that in other words the operator's functions haven't really changed, but their location has. Mr. Roberts added that Maine Yankee has a paging system whereby the operator can be contacted. He concluded by saying that the control room license amendment is a novel approach, approved previously for another plant, that appears to make sense for Maine Yankee.

### **Decommissioning Update**

Mr. Rocky Benner, Decommissioning Director, provided the attendees with a briefing on the status of the decommissioning project. Mr. Benner spoke from a handout and slides entitled "Maine Yankee Decommissioning Status, July 17, 2003," a copy of which is included in the meeting record as **Attachment 2**. Mr. Benner discussed progress in the second quarter of 2003. His presentation covered overall progress, safety and dose, site restoration, and waste/RPV.

Mr. Hudson asked when the forebay project will be completed. Mr. Benner responded that the forebay will not be backfilled until next year and remediation is scheduled to be completed in the fall.

### **End State Description**

Mr. Terry Peacock, Site Restoration Manager of Projects, provided the CAP with a briefing on the physical end state of the site, current containment demolition plans, and containment demolition preliminary noise mitigation planning. He spoke from a handout and slides entitled "Site Physical End State," a copy of which is included in the records of this meeting as **Attachment 3**. Mr. Peacock's presentation covered presentation purposes, site end state, underground structures remaining, containment demolition update, containment interior demolition, containment shell demolition, demolition noise planning, noise reduction techniques already employed, noise reduction techniques going forward, and noise mitigation strategies going forward.

After Mr. Peacock completed his presentation, Mr. Feigenbaum added that Maine Yankee wants to work with its neighbors in dealing with the expected noise. Maine Yankee intends to design an approach that avoids neighbors losing sleep at night because of the demolition activities. Maine Yankee will be listening for feedback from neighbors and will continue talking with them throughout the process.

Mr. Thompson asked why the arches have been made bigger and higher. Mr. Peacock pointed out that a key requirement for the containment demolition is that the dome can not be unstable in postulated conditions while fuel remains in the spent fuel pool. The larger arches provide that stability while providing columns that can be removed with explosives.

Mr. Crary asked the timeframe of containment demolition. Mr. Peacock responded that he is scheduled to start cutting the tall rectangles in August and shell demolition is scheduled to be complete in winter of 2004-05.

Chair Kilkelly asked if there were any public comment on Mr. Peacock's presentation.

One member of the public pointed out that she does not hear much noise from Maine Yankee decommissioning.

### **RCRA Closure Status**

After a break Mr. Stephan Evans, Environmental Remediation Manager, provided the CAP with a briefing on the status of the RCRA remediation effort. Mr. Evans talked from a handout and slides entitled "Maine Yankee RCRA Closure," a copy of which is included in the records of this meeting as **Attachment 4**. Mr. Evans presentation covered presentation objectives, RCRA closure requirements, RCRA closure process, Maine Yankee RCRA strategy, RCRA project status, backlands investigation, backlands investigation results, Bailey Point investigation, Bailey Point investigation results, future RCRA closure aspects, and institutional controls.

Mr. Hudson asked how deeply is ground water being monitored. Mr. Evans responded that wells go into bedrock.

Mr. Hudson asked if any remediation was required in Study Area 1, north of Old Ferry Road. Mr. Evans replied "No."

Ms. Kilkelly asked if the Outfall 009 contamination area has been bounded. Mr. Evans responded that yes it has been bounded in a small discrete area and that the presence of petroleum breakdown daughter products indicate that the contamination is degrading over time.

Ms. Craighead asked if the ground water flow path will be changed when the containment foundation sump pump is turned off. Mr. Evans responded that there should be no major change in the basic bedrock flow path when the pump is turned off.

### **Trail Concept**

Mr. Hudson, President of the Chewonki Foundation, provided the CAP with a briefing on the status of a recreational trail that his organization is proposing. The trail was laid out on a map entitled "Back River Conservation and Recreation Lands," a copy of which is included in the records of this meeting as **Attachment 5**.

When the Chewonki Foundation was selected for Eaton Farm donation negotiations, the Foundation looked into the possibility of a trail linking the properties in which Chewonki had an interest. The Town of Wiscasset considered a recreational trail in the 1980s. This trail concept has built on the town's effort. The trail is currently slated to run from the northern end of Cushman Hill to Chewonki. It will travel across Maine Yankee and town properties in Resource Protection shoreland zones where possible. Development is generally not allowed in Resource Protection zones.

Chewonki is seeking support from the Land for Maine's Future Board to acquire the northern portion of Cushman Hill. The trail will provide an opportunity for public access to water and open space for recreation. Chewonki has met with Maine Yankee to discuss the concept and will be meeting with the Wiscasset Selectmen soon.

Mr. Thompson stated that the approach is good and could perhaps be expanded by extending the trail into Wiscasset and offering snowmobile access in the winter.

Mr. Keyes stated that the Brunswick bikeway is an example of effectively using an unused strip of land along the Androscoggin River for a healthy purpose. Development of this trail may offer an opportunity for the healing that some seek from the days of the plant. Mr. Keyes concluded by saying: "Congratulations for a wonderful idea!"

### **Committee Business/Discussion**

#### **September 10 planning meeting**

Mr. Eric Howes outlined the plans for the September 10 planning meeting. CAP members are invited to come to the plant in late morning for a plant tour. After the tour lunch will be served to the CAP at Chewonki. The afternoon meeting will be devoted to planning for the next year.

The October meeting will need to be rescheduled at the September 10 planning meeting.

Mr. Thompson requested an update of the decommissioning costs. Mr. Feigenbaum stated that this information is being updated for a rate case filing that will occur in

October. The October meeting could be a good time to review this updated cost information.

**Adoption of minutes of 4/23/03 meeting**

The minutes of the April 23, 2003, meeting were adopted by vote of the CAP.

**Meeting adjourned** at about 8:13 PM.

**The next meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2003.**