

Used Nuclear Fuel at the Former Yankee Nuclear Power Plants



Connecticut Yankee Fuel Storage Facility



Maine Yankee Fuel Storage Facility



Yankee Rowe Fuel Storage Facility

Yankee Company Spent Fuel Storage

Connecticut Yankee in Haddam, CT, and Yankee Rowe in Rowe, MA, are shutdown plants in the final stage of decommissioning. Maine Yankee in Wiscasset, ME, has completed decommissioning.

Used nuclear fuel produced by these former plants from the late 60's through the mid-90's is stored at each site in accordance with U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations in dry cask storage facilities known as Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations (ISFSI).

Connecticut Yankee's ISFSI contains 40 canisters of used nuclear fuel, Maine's 60 and Yankee Rowe's 15. In addition, each ISFSI stores one or more canisters of Greater Than Class C (GTCC) Waste which the federal government also has the responsibility to remove. GTCC Waste is irradiated steel removed from the reactor vessels of the three plants during decommissioning.

Nuclear Waste Policy Act Impact on Electric Consumers Due to Federal Program Delay

The Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) stipulates that those who benefit from electricity produced by nuclear power plants will pay for the disposal of the used nuclear fuel these plants generate through payments to the federal Nuclear Waste Fund. In return, the federal government has the obligation to remove used nuclear fuel from nuclear plant sites and dispose of this material in a federal repository. Under the NWPA, removal of used fuel to the repository was to have begun in 1998.

Electric customers have met their obligation to pay for the removal and disposal of used nuclear fuel, but the federal government has yet to remove any used fuel from plant sites or open a facility to receive it. It is unknown when the federal government will fulfill its obligations.

Yankee Company Lawsuits

To protect their electric consumers, Yankee Atomic Electric Company Rowe (YAEC), Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Company (CYAPCO), and Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company (MYAPCO) filed litigation in federal court in 1998 charging that the federal government breached contracts it entered into with each company in 1983 under the NWPA.

Two federal courts, including the Court of Federal Claims, found that the government did breach its contract with the three companies and other utilities. In 2004 a trial was conducted in the Court of Claims to determine the amount of damages owed to each company. The three Yankee companies' individual damage claims are specific to each plant and include costs through 2002 for MYAPCO, and 2001 for YAEC and CYAPCO. Among other items, the damage claims reflect enhanced security measures required since 9/11 to safely store and protect used nuclear fuel until it is removed. Since the spent fuel will have to be stored at the sites out into the future, the Yankee companies will have the opportunity to potentially recover more damages in future lawsuits.

On September 30, 2006, the Court of Federal Claims awarded the Yankee companies \$143 million of the \$177 million damage claim.