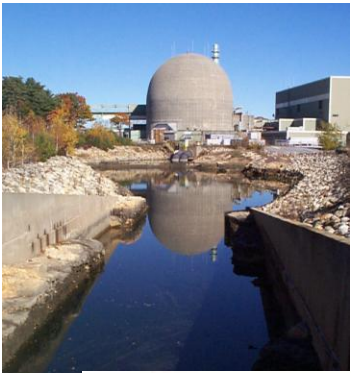


# Decommissioning Communities



## *Preparing for the After Life*

### **A Discussion of Community Involvement in the Decommissioning of Maine Yankee**

Presented to the ANS 9<sup>th</sup> International High-Level Radioactive Waste Management  
Conference by Senator Marge Kil Kelly,  
Chair of the Maine Yankee Community Advisory Panel on Decommissioning

April 30, 2001

# The Plant

- Maine Yankee, a 900 megawatt single unit PWR, operated from 1972 - 1997.
- 50% of the plant's output supplied one quarter of the state's energy needs on an annual basis.
- Maine Yankee generated electricity at an average cost of 2.6 cents per kilowatt hour over its lifetime.
- The plant employed approximately 500 permanent employees, with over 1000 additional people on site to support outages, regularly scheduled every 18 months. Of the permanent employees, 50% lived within 20 miles of the plant.

# The Plant

- At the time of shutdown, the plant paid the town of Wiscasset approximately *\$12 million dollars* in taxes annually.
- Additionally the plant contributed to the local communities through purchase of goods and services, financial aid for emergency services and corporate giving.

# The Communities

- Wiscasset, a rural village along the Sheepscot river, is the plant's "host" community.
- Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ); 16 towns within about a 10 mile radius of the plant.
- Communities fall within two counties, Lincoln and Sagadahoc.
- The communities are located in the Midcoast section of Maine, approximately one hour north of Portland, Maine's largest city.
- The geography of the region is primarily rural with denser development along the coastline.



# The Communities

- Over 50% of the regional economy is based in service and retail trade industries, much of that in support of tourism. Government, manufacturing, construction, agriculture, forestry and fishing make up the balance of the regional economic base.
- Population of the Wiscasset is approximately 3,700.
- Population of Lincoln County is approximately 32,783.

# The Maine Yankee Community Advisory Panel on Decommissioning (CAP)

- Established in August 1997 at time of plant shutdown *“to enhance open communication, public involvement, and education on Maine Yankee decommissioning issues”*.
- Began as 14 member panel, and has operated as an 11 member panel for the past two years (2 positions vacant, 1 eliminated).
- Majority of members reside in the 16 communities within 25 miles of the plant.

# The Maine Yankee Community Advisory Panel on Decommissioning (CAP)

- **Permanent members** include:

- ⑩ ☐ State Senator from Lincoln County,
- ⑩ ☐ Wiscasset Town Planner (position eliminated by town),
- ☐ Maine Yankee representative

- **Appointed members** include:

- ⑩ ☐ Wiscasset resident,
- ⑩ ☐ EPZ resident,
- ⑩ ☐ Emergency Planning expert,
- ⑩ ☐ Friends of the Coast representative,
- ⑩ ☐ Governor's liaison,
- ⑩ ☐ resident of Lincoln County,
- ⑩ ☐ science teacher,
- ⑩ ☐ environmentalist,
- ⑩ ☐ business owner,
- ⑩ ☐ radiological professional (*vacant*),
- ⑩ ☐ marine resources professional (*vacant*)



April 30, 2001

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# The Maine Yankee Community Advisory Panel on Decommissioning (CAP)

- Five of the 11 members have served on the panel since its first year.
- Have held 29 regular meetings; toured 3 dry storage facilities for spent fuel, attended 3 decommissioning conferences; toured the Maine Yankee site on average 2 times a year; met with members of Big Rock Community Panel and CY Citizens Decommissioning Advisory Committee (CDAC).
- Two current and two former CAP members also serve on the state's Advisory Commission on Radioactive Waste and Decommissioning; the CAP chairperson also is a member of the Site Redevelopment Advisory Committee.



# GAINS to the COMMUNITY

## from a “CAP” Process

- **Direct access** to Maine Yankee president, upper management, and project managers
- A **public forum** for community concerns (spent fuel pool fan noise, investigation of local landfill for possible low level waste)
- Some **opportunity to influence** the course of decommissioning (Dry Fuel Storage - construction of the ISFSI berm, spacing of casks on pad)
- **Frequent updates** on progress and current schedule as well as projected activities

# CONCERNS & ISSUES

- **Public Understanding and Acceptance of Site Clean Up**
- **Relationships Between Community and Regulatory Entities**
- **Safe Storage of Used Nuclear Fuel**
- **Reuse and Redevelopment of the Site**

# **PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTANCE OF SITE CLEAN UP**

- The CAP is the primary vehicle to educate the community about the plant dismantlement and site restoration process. It is vitally important that members of the community who will remain there long after Maine Yankee goes away understand what was done at the site and have confidence that the site was appropriately restored. Inviting the community and media into the process through the public CAP meetings allows for timely questioning and discussion of concerns. Engaging the public in this dialogue and assuring public understanding of the issues remains a challenge.

# RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COMMUNITY AND REGULATORY ENTITIES

- As long as there is conflict at the federal level among regulatory agencies, (i.e. the NRC and the EPA regarding site clean up standards), environmental and economic concerns of the community remain overlooked, unaddressed, or undermined by political policies. As a result of no clear federal regulatory standard, the state of Maine passed its own standard for site clean up. Ultimate acceptance by DOE of NRC licensed spent fuel shipping canisters remains another area of regulatory uncertainty. Lack of certainty and conflict among regulatory entities undermines public confidence in the decommissioning process.

# SAFE STORAGE OF USED NUCLEAR FUEL

- Failure of the federal government (DOE) to complete the federal repository for spent fuel and estimated delays in the eventual operation of such a facility force communities to plan for the operation of local Independent Spent Fuel Storage Facilities for an indeterminate period of time. Issues of ISFSI integrity, operation, retention of technical capacity, security, etc. are just a few of the concerns that are hard to quantify. It is unclear at this time what effect the presence of the ISFSI will have on future development opportunities at the site.



# REUSE AND REDEVELOPMENT OF THE SITE

- For the community, reestablishing the tax base (both in Wiscasset and on a broader regional level) with sustainable development opportunities is a priority. Of additional concern is retaining the environmental quality of the area and attracting good paying, skilled jobs. As noted above, the ability to redevelop the site is directly related to public confidence in the quality of the decommissioning process and the safety of the ISFSI.

# LESSONS LEARNED

- To educate others, it's necessary to **get educated**. The CAP endured almost a year of tutorials - from a primer on radiation to a three day technical course on MARSSIM .
- **Ask** the “dumb” questions.
- Recognize the value in **learning from others** and experiencing things “first hand”. Seeing Spent Fuel Storage Installations at other facilities during the planning phase of Maine Yankee's facility allowed the group a greater understanding of the scope and issues associated with this type of installation.

# LESSONS LEARNED

- **Have a plan.** Taking time for an annual review of the CAP's role and the planned decommissioning activities for the upcoming 12 months has enabled the group to decide which issues to discuss and to have timely input on issues. The annual review has helped the group stay on course.
- **Figure out the “real goal”** of your group. Structure your meetings to accomplish that goal (i.e. public comment period).

# LESSONS LEARNED

- **Involve** the regulatory community. The Maine Yankee CAP has quarterly reports from the state, NRC, and EPA to hear directly from the regulatory entities their perspective on the progress of decommissioning. The public and media also get this direct contact with regulators.
- **Take the regulators to task.** (NRC - EPA forum on Final Site Release Standards July 1999)

# LESSONS LEARNED

- Recognize the value in traveling off-site. Traveling allows discussion to occur between panel members that doesn't occur within the normal meeting structure. Find the time to discuss issues informally.
- Share knowledge. Talk about what you know; use collective genius to facilitate change.



# CAP in a “CAN”

## Containment Tour December 1999



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19

# Learning About Spent Fuel Storage “Up Close and Personal”



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Palisades Tour – January 2000

# May 2000 – Viewing the Shipment Preparations for Steam Generator Barge Transport



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21



# ISFSI Construction – October 2000

## Preparations for Pouring of Vertical Concrete Canisters (VCCs)



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# Community Forum on Site Redevelopment February 2001



April 30, 2001

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23