

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **Yankee Rowe Community Advisory BOARD April 10, 2002**

The Yankee Rowe Community Advisory Board met on Wednesday, April 10, 2002 at the Yankee Rowe facility in Rowe, MA. CAB members were given a tour of the fuel transfer enclosure building and briefed on the steps/process of transferring Yankee's spent fuel into dry cask storage. Members also toured the dry fuel storage pad. Following dinner, Chairman Gail Cariddi called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM.

#### **Attendees:**

Gail Cariddi  
Chuck Bellows  
Anita Barker  
Rick Williams  
Anne Skinner  
Jana Hunkler Brule  
Ken Plumley  
Bill LeQuier  
Allan Twitchell  
Lenny Laffond  
Carol Angelo  
Tom Wilson  
Fred Katz/ Tour Only

Chairman Gail Cariddi welcomed the group and introduced Tom Wilson to the committee. Tom is CAN's new representative replacing Nina Newington. Also introduced was Florida Selectman Tim Bartlett. After a minor wording correction, the January 24, 2002 meeting minutes were approved.

#### **Decommissioning/Safety Update Brian Wood/Yankee Site Manager**

Brian Wood stated that overall site safety performance at Yankee Rowe is excellent. There were no lost time accidents in 2002 and one lost time accident in the last 850,000 hours. There was one OSHA Recordable injury in 2002.

Yankee hired RIO Technical Services, Inc as an independent company to assess fuel transfer readiness.

The NRC will be conducting inspections of the dry run and will document their findings and recommendations for improvements. An ALARA Committee and Condition

Reporting are two other strengths recognized by the regulator as a contributor to Yankee's success.

Tom Wilson asked what ALARA stands for and Brian explained that it means keeping radiation dose As Low As Reasonably Achievable.

## **FUEL LOAD READINESS STATUS**

### **Rod Dee/NAC International**

Rod Dee provided a status report on the preparations for the fuel load dry run exercises, which is actually a 3-step process. The first step, the "Dry" dry run was successfully completed. In this first practice run, the transfer cask was not lowered into the spent fuel pool. The second step, the 'Wet' dry run is scheduled to start April 15, 2002. During this second practice run, the transfer cask will be lowered into the spent fuel pool and a mock fuel assembly loaded into a canister. The third step will be a "wet" dry run demonstration for the NRC, scheduled to begin on May 6, 2002. Other dates of importance were the final phase of the RIO Inspection on April 12, 2002 and the canister cutting demonstration on April 23, 2002. Actual fuel load activities are scheduled to commence on May 31, 2002.

Challenges to the project include the successful completion of the dry runs, the Radiation Protection Program, and the completion of the Training Program. Health Physics Performance improvements include the addition of staff – an HP supervisor and an ALARA engineer. The Radiation Protection Manager will now report directly to the Project Manager. RCA entry has been enhanced. All-hands meetings are being conducted and supervisors will increase their time in the field to observe work activities. He expects 90 people to be onsite to support the fuel transfer project.

Rod Dee also explained a pictorial handout of photos taken during the first dry run that depict various aspects of the dry fuel transfer process. In response to questions regarding the loading and transfer process, he responded that the transfer cask and canister would be filled with water before being lowered into the spent fuel pool. Moving a filled concrete canister to the pad will be a long process. The truck can only move at 5 MPH and the positioning, loading and unloading of the transporter will take hours. There are plans and procedures to address flat tires and other mechanical problems that may be encountered. Planning has also taken into account working with heavy loads and providing sufficient breaking power for the transporter. Work may be conducted in the winter and these conditions will be taken into account.

There were also several questions regarding the one canister that will contain Greater Than Class C (GTCC) radioactive material. Rod explained that GTCC material was generated at Yankee during nuclear operations, why it can't be shipped offsite and how the material was segmented into strips and placed in fuel assembly-sized containers that will be placed inside a fuel canister. Eventually, all the canisters will be transported to Yucca Mountain.

## **YANKEE ROWE SITE CLOSURE PROJECT**

**Jim Hamilton/CLFV**

James Hamilton and Michael Thomas from CLF Ventures, Inc. provided an overview of the site closure project. CLF has closed other industrial sites. On a scale of cleanliness, Jim classified the Yankee site as being a 2 out of 10, with 10 being the least clean. Tom Wilson asked if Yankee was a national sacrifice area. Ken Heider said that term was used in reference to national nuclear weapons test sites. Heider noted that the Yankee site has both radiological and non-radiological areas. The radiological areas must be demonstrated to be clean to the standards before being released.

Hamilton reported that the project is in its early stages, but to date, there has been positive stakeholder feedback. Good information is forthcoming and public involvement is the key to its success.

Key environmental issues include wetlands, construction landfill and waste issues. Stakeholders have been identified at the local, state and federal levels. The long-term focus of the site closure process is the eventual disposition of the property. The four steps to closure are: 1. Goal definition; 2. Development of a draft closure process; 3. Stakeholder interactions; and 4. Implementation of the plan. Ongoing communication and dialogue is crucial during the closure process.

1. Goal Definition is approximately 85% complete. Initial outreach efforts have been to the Attorney General's Office, CAB, Dept. of Environmental Protection, Dept. of Public Health, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, NRC, Town of Rowe, and the US Environmental Protection Agency.

2. The development of a draft closure process is just beginning. Building on the goal definition, the process plan will be a viable pathway to achieve the goal. It will involve an open dialogue with the stakeholders identified above.

3. Stakeholder interactions will involve a review of the closure process, regulatory and public involvement, and building an understanding between the parties. The result will be the Site Closure Plan. This plan will be firm but have some flexibility.

4. Implementation of the plan will dovetail with decommissioning and will be integrated with the License Termination Process. Field work will be conducted in the 2003-2004 timeframe.

Jana Brule asked if debris from remaining decommissioning and dismantlement would travel River Road raising concerns that the road would need improvement to handle any heavy shipments. Ken Heider responded that remaining decommissioning shipments would most likely travel the same route as other shipments, which were transported to Route 100 in Vermont, then west. He did note that when spent fuel is eventually shipped by the DOE to a repository, it will probably travel by rail and be shipped through the Hoosac Tunnel.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

## **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

Gail requested assistance from CAB members preparing a letter supporting the approval of Yucca Mountain as the nation's high-level radioactive waste repository. The letter will be sent to Massachusetts Senators and possibly to state representatives. She would like a draft letter prepared before the next meeting so the CAB can review and endorse the letter.

At the next meeting, video of the wet dry run might be available for viewing.

The next meeting of the CAB was scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in June, Wednesday, June 19, 2002. Suggested site was the Charlemont Inn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM.