

MEETING MINUTES

Yankee Rowe Community Advisory Board
January 18, 2001

The Yankee Rowe Community Advisory Board (CAB) met on Thursday, January 18, 2001 at The Charlemont Inn in Charlemont, Massachusetts. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman, Bruce Lessels at 7:04 PM.

ATTENDEES

Lenny Laffond
Chuck Bellows
Rick Williams
Jack Cable
Nina Newington
Ken Plumley
Bruce Lessels

The minutes from the November 9, 2000 meeting were approved.

The CAB membership offered a motion to modify the charter to notify members' sponsor organizations if their representatives were absent from three consecutive meetings. The sponsoring organization would then make the determination whether to select another representative. The motion offered was approved and Yankee concurred.

It was decided to change future CAB meetings to the third Wednesday of the month in which a meeting is held instead of the third Thursday to accommodate members who have had regular conflicts on Thursday evenings.

PRESENTATIONS:

DECOMMISSIONING & FUEL STORAGE UPDATE

Brian Wood - Site Manager

Yankee management began the meeting by describing the 2000 site safety performance as excellent. In 400,000 work hours, there was only one lost time accident when a Security Officer slipped on some ice and fractured his collarbone. The OSHA recordable rate for the site was 1.5 incidents in 200,000 hours. The construction industry average is 8 incidents in 200,000 hours.

The site construction activities have been focused on the planning and preparation for the fuel transfer project. A new 30' by 60' Fuel Transfer Enclosure (FTE) building is being constructed to perform the dewatering and welding of the fuel storage canisters. With the dry fuel storage pad and road complete, the electrical hook-ups, security fencing, and security monitoring equipment installations are continuing.

Upcoming activities include: NAC site mobilization, procedure development for spent fuel pool operations and maintenance, procedure development for fuel transfer operations, and the planning for “dry runs” to simulate fuel transfers. The dry runs are currently scheduled for May. Fuel transfers are scheduled to begin by the end of June. The work schedule initially will be five days a week, ten hours a day. NAC, by contract, is expected to have all the fuel transferred to the dry fuel storage pad by the end of 2001.

Nina Newington distributed a flyer with information raising possibilities of risks related to high-level waste storage.

NRC UPDATE

John Wray – NRC Region I Inspector (Health Physicist)

John Wray introduced himself to the CAB. He will be conducting inspections on the fuel transfer operations. He told the CAB that Marie Miller (NRC Region I) would be performing inspections including the characterization and disposition of soils and concrete. Phil Ray, the NRC Project Manager for Rowe will be involved with the licensing inspections and review of safety evaluations. A report will be issued in the next thirty days covering the most recent inspection period.

The NRC issued an inspection report indicating there were no immediate safety concerns at Yankee Rowe. John said the NRC always welcomes public comment by E-mail, phone, or US mail.

The NRC’s recent report on Spent Fuel Pool fire risks was raised.

Nina Newington asked what the temperature of the fuel cask is at the hottest part. Rick Williams responded that 150 degrees would be the highest temperature. Nina asked what would happen if cooling was lost during transfer operations. Rick explained they would have 20 hours before there would be a problem. Yankee has installed a backup electric power generator as a contingency.

There was discussion covering the earthquake postulated in the NRC spent fuel storage report. A question was asked as to how the emergency plan would be implemented? Due to the severity of the postulated earthquake, it was quite likely that the roads, bridges and sirens would be in disrepair, and there would likely be no response from off-site agencies.

Ken Plumley asked if the NRC would decide on Yucca Mountain as the national repository. Russ Mellor answered that the NRC would license the site, but only after the DOE recommends a site and the site’s characterization is complete.

It was decided that the CAB would meet sometime in April. Kelley Smith will circulate a list of potential dates. It was decided to hold the meeting at City Hall in North Adams, MA on a Wednesday to accommodate members who have a problem with Thursdays.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Videotape of the meeting is available by contacting Mandy Comai at **413-424-5498** or **802-423-7775** or **mcomai @together.net** or **mcomai @yankee.com**.

Sincerely,

Bruce Lessels