

MEETING MINUTES

Yankee Rowe Community Advisory Board January 24, 2002

The Yankee Rowe Community Advisory Board met on Thursday, January 24, 2002 at the Charlemont Inn in Charlemont, Massachusetts. Chairman Gail Cariddi called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

ATTENDEES:

Gail Cariddi
Lenny Laffond
Bill LeQuier
Jana Hunkler Brule
Ken Plumley
Robert Gallagher
Rick Williams
Jack Cable
Allan Twitchell
Bruce Lessells

The November 14, 2001 meeting minutes were approved.

DECOMMISSIONING/SAFETY UPDATE

Brian Wood/Yankee Site Manager

Brian stated that the overall site safety performance at Yankee Rowe is excellent. There were no lost time accidents in 2001 and only one lost time accident in the last 795,000 hours worked. There were two OSHA recordable injuries in 2001. Worker radiation exposure was well below the exposure limit goals set by Yankee. Brian said that fuel transfer preparation is continuing. Ancillary equipment is being installed and tested. Fuel transfer procedures are being developed, as well as procedures for the dry storage facility. Additional staff to support fuel transfer activities is arriving and training is under way.

All GTCC (Greater than Class C) Waste has been repackaged and the fuel assembly repairs on the upper tier in the spent fuel pool are complete. The first of three dry runs is scheduled for early March. Yankee plans to begin moving fuel in late April.

NATIONAL HIGH-LEVEL WASTE REPOSITORY UPDATE

Russ Mellor/President and CEO, Yankee Atomic and Connecticut Yankee

Russ Mellor gave an update of the Yucca Mountain recommendation sequence.

On January 10, 2002 the U.S. Secretary of Energy, Spencer Abraham, notified the Governor of Nevada and the Nevada Legislature that Yucca Mountain (YM) is suitable for development as the nation's long term repository for nuclear waste.

After 30 days the Secretary can recommend to the President to approve YM for repository development. If the President considers the YM site qualified, he can recommend the site to Congress. This is expected to take place in the February/March 2002 time frame. The State of Nevada would be notified of the President's recommendations.

After sixty days, the designation of the site would become effective **UNLESS** the State of Nevada submits a notice of disapproval to Congress. It is anticipated that Nevada will submit a notice of disapproval. Congress can pass a joint resolution to approve YM during the first 90 days of continuous session after the notice of disapproval is submitted. The joint resolution would become law if approved.

IF YM were approved for development, the DOE would submit an application to the NRC for construction of a repository sometime in the fall 2002 time frame.

The Nuclear Waste Policy Act requires the NRC to issue a final decision approving or disapproving the site within 3/4 years, or sometime in the 2005/2006 time frame.

Russ said that twenty years of research has been completed at YM. This very complicated process was completed in hopes of bringing fuel to the site by the year 2010 or 2015.

He also said there have been more than 3000 safe shipments of used nuclear fuel in the last 30-40 years and showed the CAB a Nuclear Energy Institute video on transporting used nuclear fuel.

Gail Cariddi distributed a letter drafted by the Connecticut Yankee Community Decommissioning Advisory Committee (CDAC), recommending that the DOE fulfill their obligation to remove used nuclear fuel from commercial plants like CY and send it to a site like YM. The CAB voted to draft a letter to be sent to Massachusetts's legislators recommending the same.

YANKEE ROWE EMERGENCY PLAN REVIEW

Brian Wood/Site Manager

Brian Wood reviewed Yankee's Emergency plan. He began by explaining the difference between an operating plant and a permanently shut down plant like Yankee Rowe that has only spent fuel to be guarded. An operating plant has a more complex Emergency Plan that includes a 10-mile emergency planning zone around the plant. Because analyzed accidents and events at a decommissioning plant would not have an impact

beyond the site boundary, Yankee maintains an on-site NRC-approved Emergency Plan. Although the focus is on site, the NRC, MEMA, and VEMA remain involved.

There is annual training and an E-Plan exercise. Events that would cause the Plan to be put into effect would be radioactive releases, spent fuel handling events, security events, fires or explosions, natural phenomena and or aircraft events. If something of this nature were to occur, the event would be identified and classified and procedures would be implemented for reporting the event and interacting with other agencies. MEMA and VEMA would be notified and provided event updates and status reports. In addition, Yankee would have access to local, state and federal resources, if needed, including NRC, MEMA, MDPH, state and local law enforcement, local fire departments, hospital ambulance, and mutual aid from other nuclear facilities.

Brian mentioned that NRC Commissioner, Dr. Richard Meserve, had recently addressed the issue of nuclear plant security at the National Press Club on January 17, 2002. A copy of his speech was given to the CAB members.

BRIEFING FROM MEMA AND MADPH ON EMERGENCY RESPONSE ROLE FOR THE DECOMMISSIONED YANKEE ROWE FACILITY

PARTICIPANTS:

Bob Gallagher	–	MDPH Radiation Control Program
Diane Brown-Couture	–	MEMA Nuclear Safety Director
James Muckerheide	–	State Nuclear Engineer
Ken Plumley	–	MEMA Region III Planner

Diane Brown-Couture told the CAB the purpose of this panel was to address concerns raised by 9/11 and establish a dialogue with the community. Even though Yankee Rowe is shut down, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts still has a responsibility to support public health and safety. The team exercises frequently with different scenarios that could occur.

There are also trained people available to help in emergencies 24-7. There is a full time Public Information Officer and links to TV and radio for public emergency information. There is a “Hotline” available to citizens and the State Police have a full time representative with MEMA.

MEMA Regional Planner Ken Plumley, who works out of MEMA’s region III office in Western Mass., assists with all local planning and training in the event of an emergency. In the case of an event at Yankee Rowe, he would be notified by MEMA, but stated that due to Yankee’s shutdown condition, it would not go beyond the Alert stage so the consequences would be limited to the site.

The State Nuclear Engineer, Jim Muckerheide, said that MEMA’s focus is more on operating plants because the amount of radioactivity at a decommissioned plant is

drastically reduced. And, unlike an operating plant, there are no systems or equipment under pressure at a plant that is decommissioned. He stated that the magnitude of risk dealing with a shutdown plant that is only protecting spent fuel is very different. He would still serve as the technical advisor if Yankee Rowe had an emergency, but the issues would be different and manageable.

Bob Gallagher, who is a Radiation Control Officer for the MADPH Radiation Control Program and a member of the Nuclear Incident Advisory Team (NIAT), said his group would provide technical assistance and guidance to MEMA. In the event of an emergency, MADPH would be notified and mobilized to enter the site and conduct radiation measurements.

CAB members asked MEMA about communications backup and redundancy and the notification of local officials in an emergency.

There was no public comment

A date and agenda will be set for a meeting for late March or early April. CAB members will be informed of the time, date and place.

Chairman Gail Cariddi adjourned the meeting at 8:55 PM.

Sincerely,

Gail Cariddi
Chairman