

## **MEETING MINUTES**

Yankee Rowe Community Advisory Board

June 19, 2002

The Yankee Rowe Community Advisory Board met on Wednesday, June 19, 2002 at the Charlemont Inn in Charlemont, Massachusetts. Chairman Gail Cariddi called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM. Nine CAB members were present.

### **Attendees:**

**Carol Angelo**

**Anita Barker**

**Jana Hunkler Brule**

**Jack Cable**

**Gail Cariddi**

**Ken Plumley**

**Allan Twitchell**

**Rick Williams**

**Tom Wilson**

Chairman Cariddi welcomed the group. The meeting minutes of the April 10, 2002 meeting were approved without any corrections.

### **DECOMMISSIONING UPDATE**

**Brian Wood/Site Manager**

**Safety/Security Update**

Brian Wood told the CAB there have been no lost time accidents since the April CAB meeting. He said Yankee's overall safety performance is excellent. In 2002, there were no lost time accidents and only one in the last 927,000 work hours. There have been two OSHA Recordable injuries in 2002, both back strains. Worker radiation exposure remains below established goal limits.

Since the last CAB meeting, the NRC has issued new security orders to decommissioning plants that store fuel in wet pools. Jersey barriers have been installed to protect against a vehicle bomb attack. Most deliveries are still accepted off site, fuel oil and gas being exceptions. Vehicles are searched and traffic on the main access road is monitored. Patrolling has increased and there are new stringent unescorted access requirements. All plans are documented and Yankee's response to the NRC security order has been submitted. Yankee has 180 days to meet new requirements and has already met with the State Police, MEMA and FEMA.

Gail Cariddi asked about the potassium iodide being distributed to people who live near some nuclear plants. Brian and Yankee VP, Ken Heider, explained that the pills are being

distributed in a ten-mile radius of some operating nuclear plants if the state the plant is located in opts to obtain the pills from the NRC. The pills prevent radioactive iodine from collecting in a person's thyroid. The pills are not being distributed to residents near plants like Yankee Rowe because the risk is almost non-existent due to the plant's shutdown condition.

## **FUEL TRANSFER UPDATE**

### **Frank Helin/NAC Project Manger for Fuel Transfer**

Frank Helin informed the CAB that the first canister was loaded, the shield lid was set and welded, the draining and vacuum drying were complete, and the helium back fill had been completed. The final welding was underway on the structural lid. He noted that all of the welding is done remotely. The first storage cask was scheduled to be transferred to the fuel storage pad in a couple of days.

“We are going a little slower to make sure all is done right, but we are making slow, steady progress,” explained Frank. He narrated a video of the practice fuel transfers at Yankee Rowe that showed the steps of the fuel transfer process from start to finish.

Frank also discussed a meeting NAC had with the NRC regarding some minor amendment requests to Yankee's fuel storage system.

## **YUCCA MOUNTAIN UPDATE**

### **Ken Heider/ Vice President**

Yucca Mountain was recommended as the national repository for the nation's nuclear waste to President Bush earlier this year. The President agreed and recommended its designation as the permanent repository to Congress, but the governor of Nevada vetoed it. The U.S. House of Representatives voted 306 to 117 in favor of the Yucca Mountain resolution in May. The Senate is now considering the resolution and has to vote by July 25. They may vote on the issue just before or just after the July 4<sup>th</sup> break.

Ken said the upcoming vote is important because an approval would centralize the nation's waste underground at one federally protected facility. Yucca Mountain is in a remote, uninhabited area near a U.S. air force base. Transportation of the fuel is a concern to many groups who have protested the use of routes through their states, but Ken said that in the last 30 years there have been over 3000 safe shipments of nuclear fuel in the US, averaging 90 to 100 shipments each year. Anita Barker asked if we would store foreign fuel at Yucca and Ken said yes. The U.S. has agreed to permanently dispose of used nuclear fuel from 41 foreign countries as part of a nonproliferation plan. A Department of Energy film was shown on Yucca Mountain about the studies conducted at the site.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

After some minor changes to a draft letter, the CAB voted to approve the letters to be sent to both Senator Kennedy and Senator Kerry urging a favorable vote for the Yucca Mountain resolution. Tom Wilson, the only opposing vote, questioned the morality of sending waste to Yucca Mountain. Two Resolutions supporting Yucca Mountain were distributed to members. One was passed by the Town of Rowe and the other by the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

There was no public comment as there were no members of the public present.

The next meeting will be held in September. The location and agenda will be decided on at a later date.

A video of the meeting is available by e mailing Mandy Comai at [mcomai@yankee.com](mailto:mcomai@yankee.com) or [mcomai@together.net](mailto:mcomai@together.net) or by calling the Yankee Visitors Center at 413-424-5498.

Sincerely,

Carol Angelo  
Secretary