

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **Yankee Rowe Community Advisory Board September 19, 2001**

The Yankee Rowe Community Advisory Board met on Wednesday, September 19, 2001 at the Yankee Rowe Plant in Rowe, Massachusetts. Chairman Gail Cariddi called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

#### **ATTENDEES:**

#### **TOUR/MEETING**

**Gail Cariddi  
Jana Brule  
Jack Cable  
Ken Plumley  
Rick Williams  
Carol Angelo  
Robert Gallagher  
Anita Barker**

#### **MEETING**

**Lenny Laffond  
Anne Skinner  
Nina Newington**

CAB members toured the Dry Cask Storage Pad area prior to the regularly scheduled meeting. All sixteen storage casks have been completed. Also, before the official start of the meeting, Len Tremblay, NAC Project Manager, explained the fuel transfer process using Yankee's dry cask storage and fuel transfer model.

The May 2, 2001 minutes were approved and accepted.

#### **FUEL STORAGE UPDATE /SCHEDULE**

**Brian Wood/Yankee Site Manager  
Norm Rademacher/NAC Quality Assurance Quality Control Manager**

Prior to providing the fuel storage update, Brian addressed the heightened security at the plant as a result of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack. He said Yankee heightened its security within an hour of the attack and will remain in a heightened security mode as long as necessary. He stated it has been a long-standing policy not to provide security information to ensure Yankee's security program is not compromised. He did assure CAB members that Yankee is in regular communication with federal, state and local

agencies. Brian also noted that if the Department of Energy had met its obligation to remove the fuel, we wouldn't be discussing the fuel today.

Brian then introduced Norm Rademacher, QA/QC Manager for NAC International. Norm, who came to Yankee on February 6<sup>th</sup> and brings 28 years of experience to the fuel transfer project, provided an update on the fuel transfer project.

Norm said the construction of the storage pad and Fuel Transfer Building is complete and responsibility for those structures has been turned over to NAC. Improvements have been made to the ion exchanger to improve the clarity of the water in the pool and increase visibility when moving fuel. Of the 533 fuel assemblies, 380 have been inspected. There are ten damaged fuel pins (the metal rods that hold the ceramic fuel pellets). These rods will be removed and replaced with solid zircaloy rods. The damaged rods are to be put into a reconstituted fuel assembly that protects the rods.

There will be three, practice fuel transfer "dry runs." The first two dry runs will be performed to demonstrate proficiency while emphasizing various aspects of the fuel transfer process. The third and final dry run will be for NRC inspection. The dry runs will simulate each activity for moving the fuel from the pool to the pad without actually handling the fuel. NAC hopes to have all the fuel moved by next fall.

Upcoming NAC activities include upgrading system components for some of the remaining systems, completing the evaluation of winter operations impacts, completing the development of the project training program and schedule.

After Norm's update, Brian Wood spoke about Yankee's safety record. He said Yankee continues to have a good safety record in 2001 with 680,000 safe work hours with one Lost Time Accident. There have been 250,000 hours worked with no Lost Time Accidents and no OSHA Recordables to date.

Nina Newington asked for information on Yankee's releases during operation and decommissioning and Yankee agreed to provide that information.

**SITE CLOSURE/CONSERVATION LAW FOUNDATION  
DOE LITIGATION UPDATE  
Merrill Atkins/Yankee General Counsel**

Merrill Atkins spoke on the site closure development process. He explained that Yankee would have to eventually demonstrate to all its stakeholders (federal and state agencies) and to the public that Yankee has met all regulations on the complex issues of site closure.

He introduced Jim Hamilton from Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) Ventures, who explained how CLF, an environmental advocacy firm will help with the process. CLF is 35 years old and has over 15,000 members. Jim said his company "knows and cares about fish, trees and nature, and what is good for the environment." CLF will help

Yankee develop a thoughtful and effective closure to the site. His goal is that through partnership and dialogue, everyone will “feel good” when the site is released for unrestricted use.

Merrill also updated CAB members on the latest developments in the Yankee lawsuit against the federal government which seeks to force the Department of Energy, not electric customers, to pay for dry cask storage at Yankee. The United States Court of Federal Claims issued a scheduling and discovery order this summer. Discovery is currently underway.

Ken Heider, Yankee Vice President spoke briefly about Yucca Mountain, the proposed site for a centralized used fuel repository in Nevada. He said the project is entering a critical time as it finishes scientific studies of the mountain to support recommendation of the site to the President as a national repository. The State of Nevada will have the opportunity to say “no” to the recommendation, if made.

Nina Newington raised concerns about the viability of a permanent waste storage site like Yucca Mountain.

John Wray, NRC Region 1 Inspector, said the NRC is continuously assessing the safety of licensed nuclear facilities and will continue to do so in light of September 11. He said nuclear plants were not analyzed for a suicide attack by a plane loaded with fuel. All power plants are on their highest level of security. Structural engineers will study nuclear plant’s robust structures and assess what would happen under this extreme kind of attack.

With no further public comment Gail suggested that the next CAB meeting be after the November election. Members will be reached by e-mail to decide on a date and agenda. The Yankee today will keep the CAB members informed until the next meeting.

A video of this meeting can be obtained by emailing Mandy Comai at [mcomai@yankee.com](mailto:mcomai@yankee.com) or [mcomai@together.net](mailto:mcomai@together.net) or by calling the Yankee Visitor Center at 413-424-5498.

Sincerely,

Gail Cariddi  
Chairman