

JUN 4 1985

The Honorable Olympia J. Snowe
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Snowe:

Thank you for your letter of April 25, 1985 delineating your concerns about a new low-level waste storage facility at the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station. In your letter, you mentioned a concern expressed by Mr. Rae Bachelder about a permit approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission allowing Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company to construct an interim low-level waste storage facility.

Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company is presently constructing the low-level waste storage facility in accordance with its building permit obtained from the town of Wiscasset in January 1985. This new low-level waste storage building is also being constructed in accordance with the conditions of Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company's existing license and its technical specifications.

Under present Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations, for proposed increases in storage capacity for low-level waste generated by normal reactor operation and maintenance at power reactor sites, the safety of the proposed facility must be evaluated by the licensee under the provisions of Part 50.59 of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR 50.59). If (1) the licensee's existing license conditions or technical specifications do not prohibit increased storage, and (2) no unreviewed safety question exists, the licensee may provide the added capacity, document the 10 CFR 50.59 evaluation and report it to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission annually or as specified in the license. In addition, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has put forth guidelines that the capacity of such new low-level waste storage facilities may not exceed the low-level waste volume projected for 5 years. The regulations and guidelines are outlined in a generic letter dated November 10, 1981 (GL 81-38) which was sent by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to all holders of and applicants for operating licenses and construction permits. The Maine Yankee low-level waste storage facility is being constructed in accordance with the guidelines contained in GL 81-38. A copy of that generic letter is enclosed.

Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company has found that no unreviewed safety question exists, and its license and technical specifications do not prohibit expanding low-level waste storage. All low level waste retained at the facility will be stored in accordance with the regulations in 10 CFR Part 20 which puts forth standards for protection of personnel and the environment against radiation.

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PDR ADOCK 05000309
H PDR

I hope this addresses your concerns. If you have any further questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,

(Signature) L. A. Williams

for

William J. Dircks
Executive Director for Operations

Enclosure:
As stated

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/ /85

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*Tom Clark
concur via telephone for
SMS*



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

EDO PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL

FROM:

DUE: 06/03/85

EDO CONTROL: 000656

DOC DT: 04/25/85

FINAL REPLY:

REP. OLYMPIA SNOWE

TO:

CHAIRMAN PALLADINO

FOR SIGNATURE OF:

** GREEN **

SECY NO: 85-420

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DESC:

ROUTING:

ENCLOSES LETTER FROM RAE J. BACHELDER CONCERNING
INTERIM LOW-LEVEL NUCLEAR WASTE STORAGE FACILITY
TO BE BUILT BY MAINE YANKEE

GCUNNINGHAM
DAVIS

DATE: 05/20/85

ASSIGNED TO: NRR

CONTACT: DENTON

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

*Jourigay
Hutner*

NRR Received: 05/21/85

*Contact: H. Thompson
Denny Crutchfield*

*Routing: Denton / Eisenhut
BPAS*

CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

SECY NUMBER: 85-420

LOGGING DATE: 5/16/85

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: Rep Olympia Snowe--Const Ref

AFFILIATION: Rae Bachelder

LETTER DATE: 4/25/85

FILE CODE:

ADDRESSEE: Palladino

SUBJECT: .. Expresses concern about Comm approval to allow Manine Yankee to const an interim low-level waste storage fac

ACTION: Direct Reply...Suspense: May 28

DISTRIBUTION: OCA to ack

SPECIAL HANDLING: None

SIGNATURE DATE:

FOR THE COMMISSION:

Champ

Rec'd Off. EDO
Date.....5-20-85.....
Time.....8:05.....

EDO --- 000656