



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

*House of Representatives*

*State House, Boston 02133*

CHRISTOPHER J. HODGKINS  
4TH BERKSHIRE DISTRICT

January 19, 1991

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Chairman  
State Administration  
ROOM 34, STATE HOUSE  
TEL. (617) 722-2320  
DISTRICT OFFICE  
TEL. (413) 243-0289

Ivan Selin, Chairman  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
1 White Flint North  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Chairman Selin:

I am writing today in support of the Citizens Action Network of Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts, in their attempt to mandate Yankee Atomic Electric Company to file a decommissioning plan with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. This plan should explicitly outline how and when the company plans to dismanttle the Yankee Rowe power plant, and the various safety measures they will implement during this process. I would further ask that the NRC rescind all exemptions to federal guidelines surrounding the decommissioning which have already been granted to Yankee Atomic. I feel strongly that these exemptions pose serious public and environmental safety concerns.

Because of the circumstances surrounding the Yankee Rowe plant in Rowe, MA., a very explicit and detailed program of decommissioning should be filed with the NRC and appropriate state and local agencies. The dismantling of nuclear power plants similar to Yankee Rowe is relatively uncharted territory of which we have little or no previous experience to draw upon. The Citizens Action Network(CAN) has brought to light some serious safety concerns which I feel must be addressed to assure the safety of employees at the plant, citizens of surrounding towns, and the environmental integrity of the area before further decommissioning activity proceeds.

A spokesman for Yankee Atomic has stated that the site no longer poses the threat to the public which it has in past years. Aside from not being very comforted by this statement, I disagree and feel that the Yankee Rowe plant still poses a significant threat to the surrounding communities. The spent fuel rods will remain on site until the year 2018. During that time any number of natural or man made disasters could occur resulting in a very serious public safety situation. Along with the spent fuel rods, some 94,000 cubic feet of "low-level" radioactive waste remains on site. While not as hazardous, this material will still have harmful effects on people and the environment if exposure occurs.

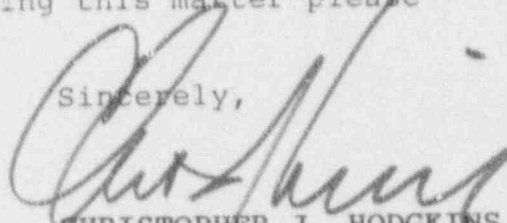
9302190199 930212  
PDR COMMS NRC  
CORRESPONDENCE PDR

With the very real possibility that a disastrous accident could occur at the Yankee Rowe plant, the NRC has chosen to turn its back on the people who live in, and around the town of Rowe. By discontinuing off-site emergency planning activities, reducing the liability insurance from \$200 million to \$4.5 million, and by not requiring any safety equipment to monitor seismic activity in the event of an earthquake the NRC has put the safety of everyone who works or lives in the area surrounding Yankee Rowe at risk.

I am respectfully requesting that the NRC hold a series of public hearings in Western Massachusetts to discuss the decommissioning process and inform the residents the various roles federal and state agencies will be playing in the decommissioning process. I would also ask that a detailed decommissioning plan be field with the appropriate federal, state and local officials. This will enable the communities which may be having low or high-level radioactive material being shipped through them to take the necessary precautions.

If you have any questions regarding this matter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER J. HODGKINS  
State Representative

CJH/ebp

cc: Citizens Awareness Network, Gail Steinburg  
Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, John Pappas  
Dept. of Public Health, David Mulligan  
Union of Concerned Scientists, Robert Pollard

# DORS

## Division of Operating Reactor Support ACTION ASSIGNMENT

Number: 93-22  
GRN TKT 0008514

Date: 1/29/93

Subject: RQST FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS TO DISCUSS THE  
DECOMM PROCESS FOR YANKEE ATOMIC  
(RECD IN DORS 1/29/93; LTR FM CHRISTOPHER J.  
HODGKINS MASS HS OF REPS

Requested by:

Action Requested:

*Draft response for Murley's signature*  
~~PLEASE REVIEW AND PROVIDE RESPONSE~~

Assigned to: \*WEISS (Section)

\* (Individual)

Expected Completion Date: *2/17/93*  
*(to B.K.G. By 2/12/93)*

Extended Completion Date: <

Actual Completion Date:

[Completion date upon submittal of completed action]

Remarks and/or Documentation of Completed Action:

*Short response saying we plan to hold  
a public meeting in the site vicinity  
Consider enclosing a copy of our  
responses to CAN.*