

December 23, 1996

Chairwoman Shirley Jackson
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

My Dear Chairwoman:

MAINE YANKEE

You have a home you like. You're called out of town for a week. Before you leave, you go into the utility room. You hit the switch to turn off the hot water heater and you set the thermostat at 50 degrees F. for while you're away. The only problem is that the wires are crossed. The hot water goes down to 50 degrees F., which saves you a little on your power bill. The furnace goes to 130 degrees F. and when you return, your house isn't there.

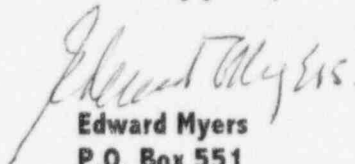
Maine Yankee is the utility room for sixty to a hundred thousand people. You're in charge of it. Don't you think you'd better check every bit of wiring in the utility room and get the crossed wires straightened out? But you can't be in Wiscasset all the time, so hadn't you better put the head maintenance man, Charlie Frizzle*, under oath that all (not some, not workarounds) the wiring has been checked and confirmed in good order?

Sitting, as you do, within the Beltway, you can understandably have no idea of the relief felt by the citizenry when we read that Maine Yankee has been closed for a couple of weeks for one more goof. If you could spend a morning strolling the main street of Damariscotta (8 nautical miles NE x E mag from Maine Yankee), you would discover the difference in mood, with the smiling greetings of "Maine Yankee is down" or "One more day to be safe in our homes." It's really remarkable.

So the Maine Yankee management is going to reverse a slipshod and complacent corporate culture created by themselves over 25 years by throwing \$27 million at the problem? That's less than the amount spent in Maine for daycare in a mere three months. And the people paying for the daycare are separated from their children most of the day. They're the ones that know the evacuation plan won't work.

3,200 ISAT deficiencies, of which 1,200 are directly safety related, some left unattended for sixteen years or so? The number is just unimaginable, and it's called "adequate." Your reputation -- and our lives and those of our children -- are on the line.

Faithfully yours,



Edward Myers
P.O. Box 551
Damariscotta, ME 04543

copies: Senators Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins
Congressmen Tom Allen and John Baldacci

* or successor

Pl 207-669-3536
Fax 207-669-6802